

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCERS use only

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

103

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Sonneborn Building (Preferred)

and/or common Paca - Pratt Building

## 2. Location

street & number 110 South Paca Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Third

state Maryland code 24 county Independent city code 510

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

## 4. Owner of Property

name 110 Paca Corporation, Daniel Goldman, President

street & number 419 West Redwood Street

city, town Baltimore vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland 21201

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Records Office, Room 601

street & number Baltimore City Courthouse

city, town Baltimore state Maryland 21202

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date February 1982 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

## 7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Sonneborn Building is a nine-story loft building constructed in 1905 on the northwest corner of South Paca and West Pratt Streets in Baltimore, Maryland. The building is of "fireproof" reinforced-concrete construction, faced in buff-colored brick, with a coursed ashlar foundation and stone trim; its detailing reflects the Neoclassical revival of the early twentieth century. The principal (east) facade, on South Paca Street, is eleven bays wide. The central bay, defined by stone pilasters, holds the entrance, which is ornamented with a split pediment surmounted by an oval window. The entrance is further emphasized by a pair of stone pilasters in each of the bays which flank it. Each of the three bays on either side of the central bays holds a group of three tall, transomed 4/4 sash windows on the first floor, with similar windows in a segmental-arched opening on the second. Below the second-story cornice, the brickwork separating the recessed window panels takes the form of rusticated pilasters; from the third to ninth floor levels, these pilasters are plain. The corner bays are expressed as heavily rusticated pilasters up to the level of the dentilled building cornice; these bays hold a single 4/4 window on each floor above the second, and a large bronze name plaque with an elaborate Neoclassical enframement below. A simple cornice separates the eighth and ninth floors, and the ninth-floor windows rest directly on it. The building is ten bays deep. The interior is utilitarian, with an open plan interrupted only by concrete-encased steel columns between the reinforced concrete floors.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

"The two corner bays on Paca Street are emphasized as wide horizontally rusticated pilasters. The basement and trim are of stone. The first two floors are topped by a cornice and have more elaborate detailing than the upper floors. The three central bays on Paca Street are ornamented by six stone pilasters and over the entrance is a split pediment surmounted by an oval window. As on the upper floors, the windows are arranged in groups of three, but those on the first floor have transoms and those on the second floor are set into segmental arches. The corner bays have no windows, instead each features a large bronze name plaque with an elaborate pilastered enframement with consoles and cornice. On these two floors the pilasters between the bays are horizontally rusticated.

The third through eighth floors are treated similarly. The four-over-four windows are separated by flat pilasters. On the corner bays there is a single four-over-four window on each floor. A simple cornice separates the eighth and the ninth floor windows rest directly on it. Above them is the roof cornice, again simple, but enriched with dentils."

The interior of the building, other than the first floor, is almost totally wide open. The first floor, or entrance level is divided by a central hallway, which leads to the four (4) elevators in the rear. According to Ervin Hess, the building's maintenance engineer for the past 32 years, the hallway, with its marble walls and terrazzo floor, was installed only about 25 years ago. About 15 years ago the interior was remodeled to accommodate the offices of the Social Security Administration. At that time a suspended ceiling, surface mounted light fixtures, and an air conditioning system, consisting of about 40 floor mounted air handling units, were installed.

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Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

There is nothing of any architectural merit or significance inside the building. The balance of the interior consists of painted, concrete incased steel columns and vinyl floor tile on reinforced concrete floors. The present condition of the building is very much the same as in 1905, when it was built as a clothing manufacturing building, right after the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904. In keeping with the mood of that time, it still has its own wooden water tanks on the roof and its own sprinkler system throughout.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Sonneborn Building "is reported to have been one of the earliest steel-and-concrete buildings in the city, and the most modern structure of its kind in Baltimore when it was built."<sup>2</sup> The building was designed by the firm of Otto Simonson and Theodore Wells Pietsch, two very well known Baltimore architects of the late 19th and early 20th century. It was designed in 1904, right after the great Baltimore fire, to be the latest in fire-proof construction, including its own sprinkler system throughout. It was built in 1905 for Henry Sonneborn and Company as a vertical clothing manufactory.

At the time it was built it was the tallest and largest, strictly manufacturing building in the City of Baltimore. Today it remains the tallest and largest of the remaining loft buildings in what has come to be known as the "Loft Urban Renewal Area."<sup>3</sup>

"The southwest portion of Downtown Baltimore, known as Loft Urban Renewal Area contains the greatest concentration of warehouses, lofts and vertical manufactories of the period between 1850 and 1910, in the entire state. The buildings are virtually linked to the importance of Baltimore, center for the manufacture of major clothing, pharmaceuticals and tobacco products at that time. The structures outline the stylistic history of commercial building in Baltimore and trace the origins of modern architecture in capsule form."<sup>4</sup> Buildings of these types once stood in great numbers in Baltimore, but with the large scale

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

# 8. Significance

R-2330

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905 Fuller Const. Co. of New York Builder/Architect Otto Simonson (1862-3/24/1922) and Theodore Wells Pietsch (1868-10/1/1930)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: A, C

## SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Sonneborn Building is significant for its architecture, and for its association with important developments in the history of industry and labor relations. The building embodies the esthetic and functional characteristics of early 20th century industrial architecture, including fine Neoclassical ornament, an open plan providing for efficient use of space as well as ample light and ventilation, and fireproof construction. In the context of the other buildings in Baltimore's Loft District, the large Sonneborn Building stands out in its commanding corner location at an important entrance to the district, and in the contrast of its light buff-colored walls and Neoclassical detail with its red brick and brownstone Queen Anne neighbors. The work of prominent and prolific Baltimore architects Otto C. Simonson and Theodore Wells Pietsch, the building ranks with their best commissions in its highly successful application of decorative detail to a structure designed to maximize industrial utility. The Sonneborn Building is also significant for its association with the development of the garment industry, both in Baltimore and more generally, as the scene of revolutionary advances in manufacturing efficiency and labor relations. At the time of its construction, it represented the largest clothing factory in the nation, and the first known attempt to consolidate all aspects of clothing manufacture under a single roof. The Sonneborn Company also originated several improvements in employer/employee relations, including the institution of trade boards for arbitrating grievances and an internal court of industrial relations. These pioneering efforts established the pattern for the clothing industry, and their interrelated advances in efficiency and industrial relations came to be known industry-wide as the "Sonneborn System."

FOR HISTORY AND SUPPORT SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1



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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

clearance of the inner harbor area, their kind is now rare. They exist in heavy concentration only in the "Loft Urban Renewal Area."<sup>5</sup>

The design of the Sonneborn Building represents the beginning of the elimination of "exuberant decoration"<sup>6</sup> of commercial buildings. Its clean simple lines are in sharp contrast with the Abell Building at 329-335 West Baltimore Street which has been called "the finest Victorian warehouse in Baltimore."<sup>7</sup> Yet its subdued ornamentation fits right in between that of its nearby neighbor, the original Strouse Brothers Company Building built in 1890, at 410 West Lombard Street, which is similar though more subdued to the Abell Building, and the addition to the Strouse Brothers building built in 1906.

The addition, completed only one year after the Sonneborn Building, is almost totally devoid of any exterior ornamentation.

The designers of the Sonneborn Building, Otto C. Simonson and Theodore Wells Pietsch, designed many important Baltimore buildings. The utility of design of this building may have been most influenced by the practicality gained by Mr. Simonson's "25 years as Superintendent of Public Works in Baltimore."<sup>8</sup> The ornamental touches on the building probably came from Mr. Pietsch who studied "Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,"<sup>9</sup> and then "went to Paris for supplementary study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts."<sup>10</sup> Simonson, is best known for his design of "the Maryland Casualty Company Building (also known as Hearst Tower)"<sup>11</sup> which was built in 1912 and is now known as the Tower Building, located at 222 East Baltimore Street. Pietsch's "best known works were the Zion Church, Built in 1912, U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Building (1907). Eastern High School (1904) and the Jackson Place School, the later completed in 1923."<sup>12</sup> Together, in addition to the Sonneborn Building, they designed what is now the Rotunda Shopping Center at 711 West 40th Street; the American Building across East Baltimore Street from the Tower Building; the United Way Building at 20-24 Light Street; "and the Southern Hotel, Light and Redwood Streets, now the Calhoon MEBA Engineering School. In addition, Pietsch designed the Broadway Recreation Pier in 1914."<sup>13</sup> He also designed the old Maryland Institute and surrounding market place buildings, including the Fish Market, in 1907, the Industrial Building at 501 East Preston Street, in 1912; and Saints Phillip and James Church at Charles and 29th Street, in 1928.

The building was built by Henry Sonneborn and Company to house their clothing factory. "Baltimore's clothing industry possesses a rich history. In 1850 Henry Sonneborn and Company came into being. This company became the nation's largest individual clothing maker . . ."<sup>14</sup> This plant . . . was the first of its kind in this part of the country . . ."<sup>15</sup> The great significance of this building and the company which built it is best described by Henry Sonneborn II, the son of the company's founder, in his interview, at the age of 85, by Isaac Rehert, printed in the Baltimore Sun on November 11, 1975:

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

" ' When my father started the factory - he built the 10-story Sonneborn Building at the corner of Pratt and Paca Streets - there weren't any clothing factories yet.

'At that time men's suits weren't made in one building. An entrepreneur bought a lot of cloth, then he hired a cutter to cut out the different units for him, then he parceled out each of the units - the coat, the vest, the pants, to different contractors to have them sewn up.

'The contractors had shops of their own. They were usually sweat shops.

'My father was the first man to put everything into one building. He hired the contractors as foreman, and the shopworkers as employees.

'It was a revolutionary idea at the time. It was the biggest clothing factory in the country. At one time we manufactured 3,000 suits a day.

But the Sonneborn factory was novel in other ways.

'My father believed in labor justice. He set up trade boards in the plant for arbitrating grievances. The union elected its representatives and the factory hired its labor manager and whenever there were disagreements, they worked them out. It became a pattern for the industry.

'We had 2,500 employees and we had a huge turnover, in some years 50 percent. You see, we were known throughout the world as a haven for homeless Jews. Europe was still having pogroms, and word got around in every country that any Jew who was driven out of his home, if could only get to Baltimore he could find a job at Sonneborn's factory.

'Most of them didn't stay long. Only as long as it took them to get on their feet. Then they left for greener pastures.'"16

The bulk of the important economic and social advances originated by the Sonneborn Company occurred after they moved into the Sonneborn Building. "In 1914, it (Sonneborn Company) was the first in America to establish a court of industrial relations."17 "This change in method of manufacture and in association between employer and employee became known in the clothing industry at the turn of the century as the 'Sonneborn System.'"18 The building's size allowed Henry Sonneborn's company great growth. "By 1911 his factory ranked as the largest clothing plant in the world having a daily output of three

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

thousand suits."<sup>19</sup> This great capacity became very important in 1917 when the United States Government turned to the Sonneborn Company to manufacture military uniforms during World War I.<sup>20</sup>

The history of the American Labor Movement in Baltimore is intertwined with the history of Henry Sonneborn and Company. Since most of the advances by the labor unions occurred after the Sonneborn Building was built they are also part of its history. In almost every instance those advances occurred as a direct result of the cooperation of the farsighted owners of Henry Sonneborn and Company, like Henry Sonneborn, his brother-in-law Siegmund Sonneborn and his son-in-law Seymour Mandelbaum.

Sonneborn's was the first large company to be "unionized as an open shop in 1904."<sup>21</sup> "Baltimore was one of the first chartered locals of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), associated with the American Federation of Labor (AFL) . . ."<sup>22</sup> "In December 1909, two thousand workers in three large shops went on strike: Sonneborn's, Schloss'; and Silverman's . . . Samuel Gompers arrived to manage the strike."<sup>23</sup>

" The next breakthrough was Baltimore's selection as 'a strategic place' when Sidney Hillman's Amalgamated Clothing Workers seceded from ILGWU in 1913. To organize Baltimore, they strategically selected Sonneborn's, already the best organized and best paid work force . . . The union and Sonneborn quickly reached an agreement to organize a system of arbitration: they appointed Jacob Moses, judge of the new juvenile courts and Sonneborn's own company legal adviser, as arbitrator. Sonneborn formulated an internal Plan of Organization for his factory that sought to reconcile a patriotic conception of American constitutional democracy and free-enterprise capitalism. The grievance committee drew members from a 'cabinet' of owners of the firm, a 'senate' of department heads or management, and a 'congress' of workers. The employee's mutual association was more democratic than earlier ones such as on the B & O: all employees belonged, voted, and could stand for election. Workers outnumbered management on the grievance committee, and settlements required nearly the unanimity of a Quaker meeting. Sonneborn introduced the best features of the B & O savings and loan and pension plan, ordered fire drills, and a medical department with oculists and a trained nurse on duty at all times.

By 1916, the ACWA had 9,000 members in Baltimore, . . . The ILGWU and the ACWA were struggling for control. The ILGWU had the reputation of being easier on management. On 2 February, the ACWA called out 2,000 workers from Sonneborn's and 700 from Strouse's for a demonstration . . . On 3 March police refused to let 500 Sonneborn workers picket . . . Inside Sonneborn's, the cutters (ILGWU) refused to go out with ACWA and the hostility resulted in a fight on the floor with cutting shears. But the ACWA won, and attributed its national survival to the courage of the Baltimore tailors. A thousand workers participated in family celebrations of Sonneborn's ninetieth birthday. The workings of a labor



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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

court or board of arbitration were now extended to the entire industry. Work stoppages were practically eliminated. Jacob Moses settled some 900 cases, and Frank Goodnow, president of the Johns Hopkins University, was frequently involved in the mediation process.

The talent for containing conflict was a remarkable example to Baltimore. Jewish culture had embodied the tug of war between faith and reason, the law and the spirit, individualism and solidarity. The European Jews had struggled for centuries already with the moral problems posed by the coexistence of rich and poor. Therefore, in spite of the argument and agitation on the surface, there was beneath it a process of reflection and cultural foundation that could embrace contradiction and survive conflict. Tradition provides mechanisms for labor mediation; they were outgrowths of millennial effort to keep disputes within the Jewish community and within the framework of Jewish law. In Baltimore, a Jewish Court of Arbitration was functioning by 1912 for a wide range of criminal, civil, and domestic cases."<sup>24</sup>

The Sonneborn Building has been owned, occupied, worked in, or visited by many people important to Baltimore's growth and development as an important world-wide industrial center. But none was more important than Henry Sonneborn. In most instances it was he who launched the others to their positions of importance. His daughter Henrietta was married to Charles Hutzler, one of the three brothers who founded the department store chain. His other daughter, Sarah was married to Col. Seymour Mandelbaum, who started working for Henry at 24 years of age and went on to become one of the founders of the Fidelity Trust Company, the International Trust Company, and the United Railways and Electric Company, the builders of Baltimore's street railways. Col. Mandelbaum was also one of the builders of "The Belvedere" hotel. Henry even financed the trip of his niece's husband, Isaac Guggenheim, out west to inspect some mining interests. This trip and Henry's loan led to the founding of Kennecott Copper, American Smelting and Refining Company, and a number of others which formed the basis of the Guggenheim fortune."<sup>25</sup>

"Although Henry Sonneborn enjoyed a high reputation among his economic peers, it is no exaggeration to point out that he was held in even higher regard by the masses of Jewish people in Baltimore. Their esteem for him was based on his helpfulness in easing the assimilation into American life of so many recently arrived and less fortunate fellow-Jews.

It would be unfair to speak of the life of Henry Sonneborn and mention only the help that he gave to his coreligionists. He was equally alive to the needs of any and every race and creed."<sup>26</sup>



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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

The Sonneborn Building (AKA Paca - Pratt Building, from its location at Paca and Pratt streets) is historically significant for numerous reasons. Its design is the work of the well-known and prolific early 20th century architectural firm of Otto C. Simonson and Theodore Wells Pietsch. It is an outstanding example of the neo-classical transition design from the "exuberant decoration"<sup>27</sup> of the Victorian style to the almost unornamented Chicago style of commercial buildings. It is one of the earliest buildings engineered to be fire-proof. It was the first large scale clothing factory in Baltimore and for a time the largest in the world. Its operation revolutionized the clothing industry with its economies of scale. It was also the scene of the origination of many revolutionary changes in employer employee relations. It was specifically designed to improve employee working conditions. The windows were larger to increase the amounts of light and air. The ceilings were higher to improve ventilation. It was engineered to be fire-proof. Also, the original owners were farsighted men who believed in "democracy in business."<sup>28</sup> Their company was the first in America to establish a court of industrial relations.<sup>29</sup> They were pioneers in establishing workers' grievance committees, pension plans, fire drills and in-house medical departments.<sup>30</sup> Their tolerance and acceptance of their workers' desires to unionize made the establishment of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) and the amalgamated Clothing Workers Association (ACWA) much easier and less acrimonious than it could have been.<sup>31</sup> Most important it is a monument to America's free enterprise system. It was all created by a German immigrant who left home as a fugitive at the age of 23; arrived in America almost penniless; started out as a wandering peddler and worked his way up to being one of the giants of the American clothing industry. Along the way he launched numerous other entrepreneurs and assisted untold thousands of his fellow immigrants to adapt to their new life in their new country.<sup>32</sup>

FOOTNOTES

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING

1. City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey (1976) - City of Baltimore Commission for Historical & architectural Preservation, 1976. Baltimore: C.H.A.P., 1976.
2. John Dorsey and James D. Dilts, A Guide to BALTIMORE ARCHITECTURE. Centerville, Maryland: Tidewater Publishers, 1981, p.101.
3. Loft District - Baltimore City Historic District Ordinance, 715; 5/12/78; 1130; 6/11/79. Baltimore: C.H.A.P., 1979. (See attached copy.)
4. Ibid., p.1.
5. Ibid., p.1.
6. A Guide to BALTIMORE ARCHITECTURE, 1981, p.98.
7. IBID., p. 98.

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## FOOTNOTES(Continued)

## THE SONNEBORN BUILDING

8. Henry F. Withey, A.I.A. & Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects. Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1970, p. 556.
9. Ibid., p.472.
10. Ibid., p. 472.
11. Ibid., p. 555, 556.
12. Ibid., p. 472, 473.
13. A Guide to BALTIMORE ARCHITECTURE - 1981, p. 285.
14. "Baltimore: Its Manufacturing Market", Apparel Manufacturer. New York: August 1945, p. 71. (See attached copy).
15. Henry Sonneborn Jr., Sonneborn Family Biography. Baltimore: Unpublished, 1980, p.8. (See attached copy).
16. Isaac Rehert, "Sonneborn, the 'link' between the pioneer and the future," Baltimore Sun, November 11, 1975. (See attached copy).
17. Apparel Manufacturer. p. 72.
18. Obituary - Siegmund B. Sonneborn, Baltimore Sun, September 20, 1940. (See attached copy).
19. A. D. Glushakow, A Pictorial History of Maryland Jewry. Baltimore: Jewish Voice Publishing Co., 1955, p. 133 (See attached copy)
20. Baltimore Sun, September 20, 1940.
21. Sherry H. Olson, BALTIMORE: The Building of an American City. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980, p. 282.
22. Ibid. p. 282.
23. Ibid. p. 282.
24. Ibid. p. 282, 283.
25. Sonneborn Family Biography, p. 7.
26. Ibid. p.9.
27. A Guide to BALTIMORE ARCHITECTURE, p. 98.
28. Baltimore Sun, September 20, 1940.

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FOOTNOTES (Continued)THE SONNEBORN BUILDING

29. Apparel Manufacturer p. 72
30. BALTIMORE: The Building of an American City p. 282.
31. Ibid. p. 282.
32. Sonneborn Family Biography, p. 9.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1, 2 and the eastern half of Lot 3, Block 630, Ward 4, Section 8 in the Baltimore City Tax Records. Beginning at the southeast corner of Pratt Street; thence, northerly 175.5 feet  $\pm$  to intersect Lemmon Street; thence west 159.26 feet  $\pm$  to intersect the partition line through Lot 3 in block 630; thence, south 175.5 feet  $\pm$  to intersect W. Pratt Street; thence, east 159.26'  $\pm$  to the place of beginning, containing .6416 acre.

## 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

B-2330

1. See Footnotes on Continuation Sheets #6, #7 and #8
2. Note on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .6416 acre (27,950 sq. ft.)

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad.

Quadrangle scale 1:24:000

UMT References

A	1 8	3 6 0 0 6 0	4 3 4 9 6 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
---	--	--	--

D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Verbal Boundary Description on Continuation Sheet #8

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis P. Dolan, President (Contract Purchaser of Property)

organization Land Use Consultants Kompany, Inc.

date February 26, 1982

street &amp; number 5801 Annapolis Road - Suite 500

telephone (301) 792-7285

city or town Bladensburg

state Maryland 20710

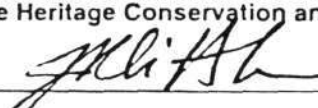
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

<input type="checkbox"/> national	<input type="checkbox"/> state	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local
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As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



9-7-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

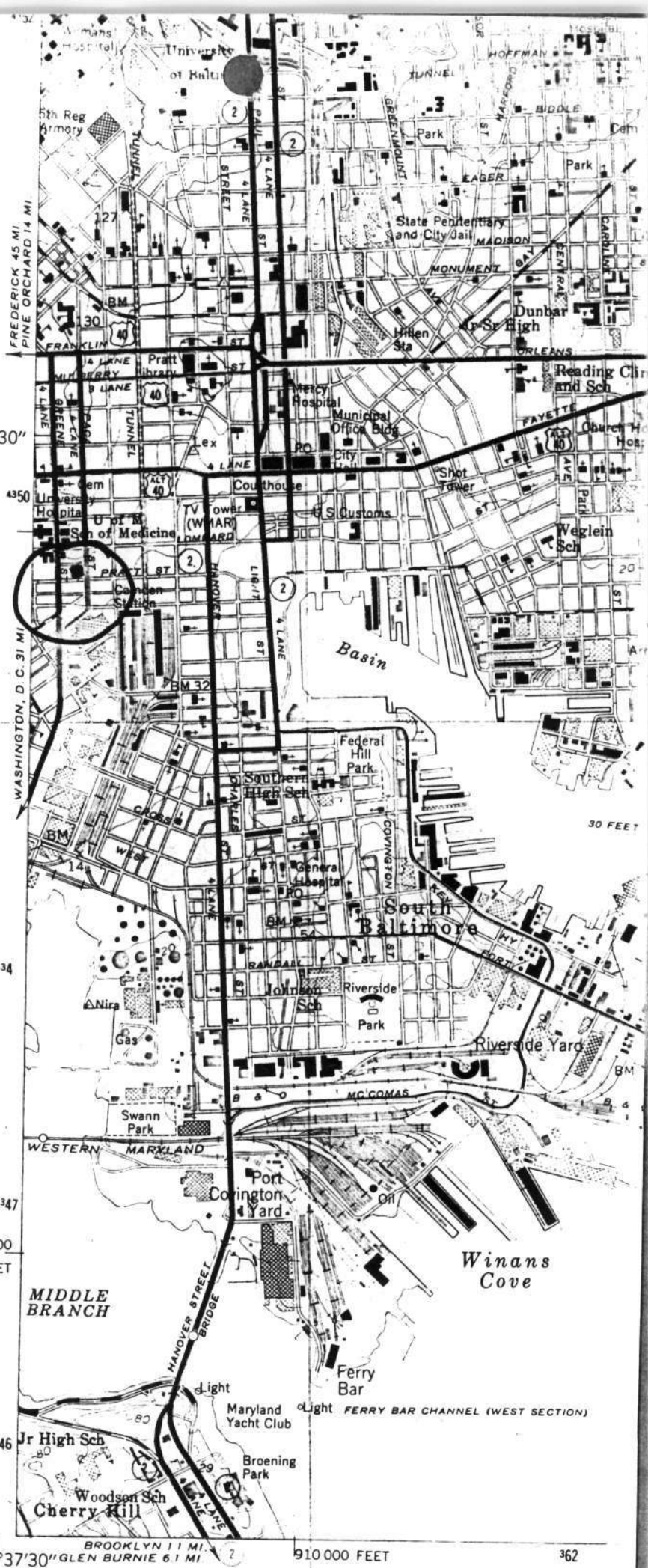


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SONNEBORN BLDG.  
BALTIMORE CITY

18-360060-4349620

17'30"



B-2330



B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 S. Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

February 23, 1982  
Dennis P. Dolan  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

1. View looking N.W. across intersection  
of S. Paca and W. Pratt Streets - showing  
South and East facades.

1 of 33

B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

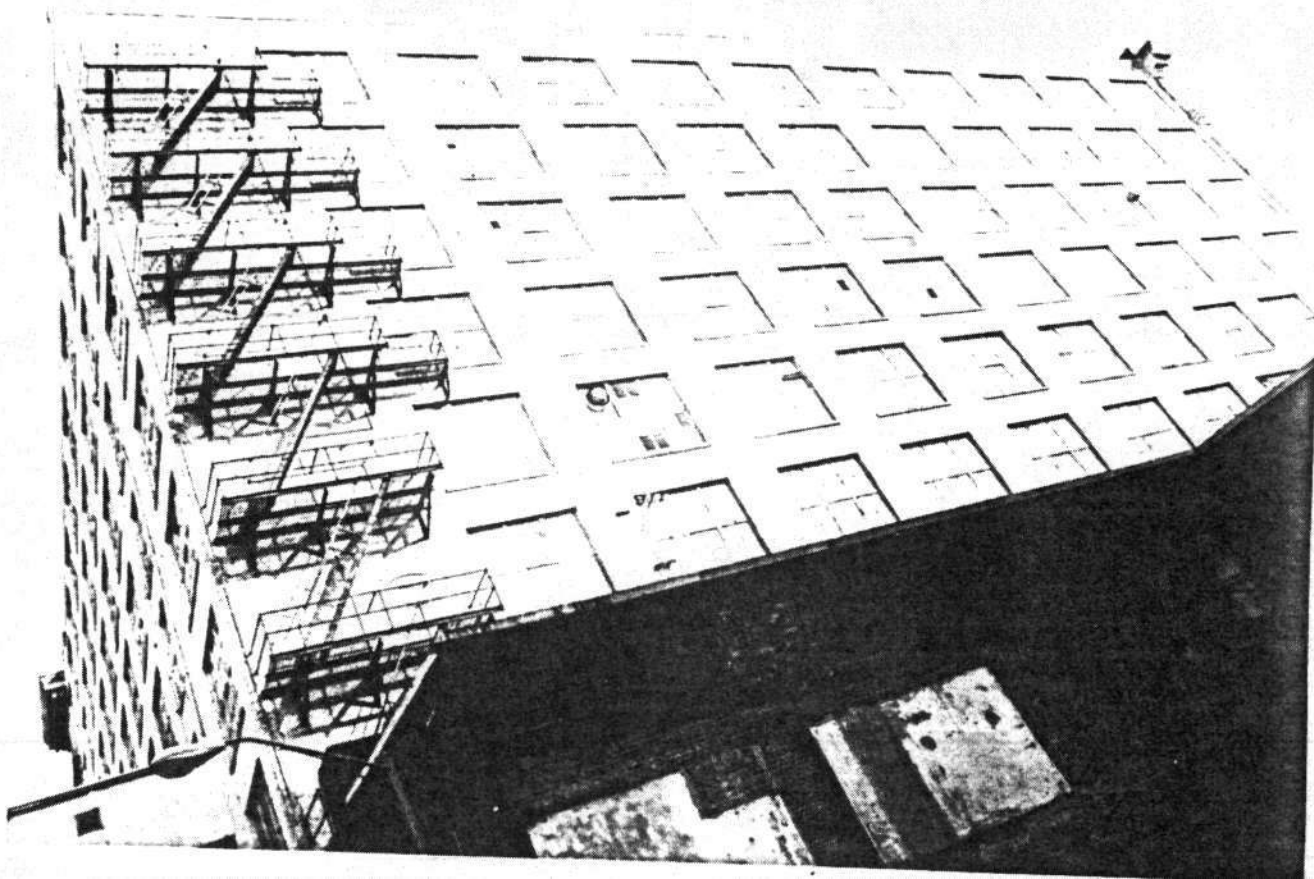
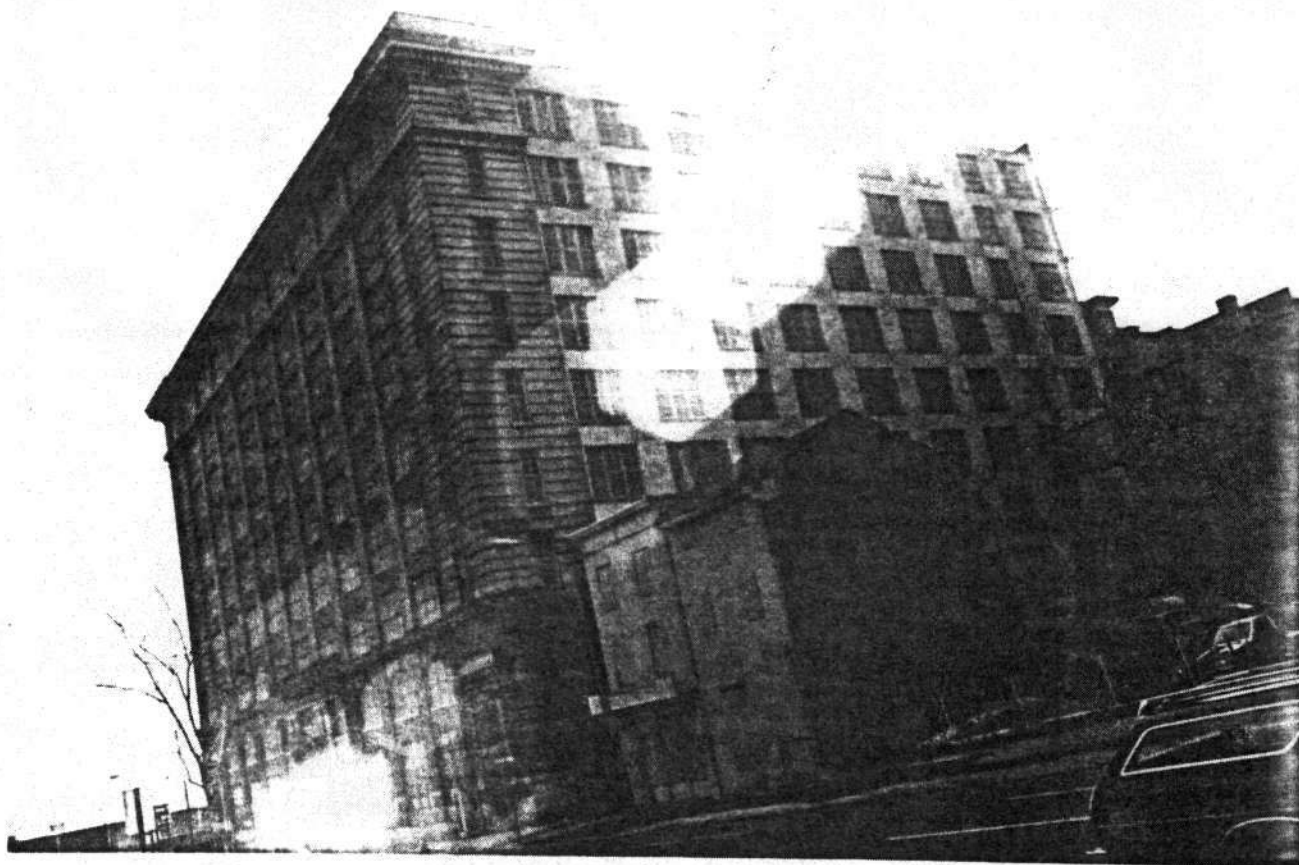
February 23, 1982  
Dennis P. Dolan  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

2. View looking W. across S. Paca Street-  
showing East facade.

2 of 33



B-2230





B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

February 23, 1982  
Dennis P. Dolan  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

3. View looking S.W. across S. Paca Street  
showing East and North facades.

3 of 33

B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 S. Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

February 23, 1982  
Dennis P. Dolan  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

4. View looking S.E. from Lemmon Street -  
showing part of North facade and most of the  
West facade.

4 of 33



B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

February 23, 1982  
Dennis P. Dolan  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

5. View looking N.E. across W. Pratt Street -  
showing part of West and South facades.

5 of 33

B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

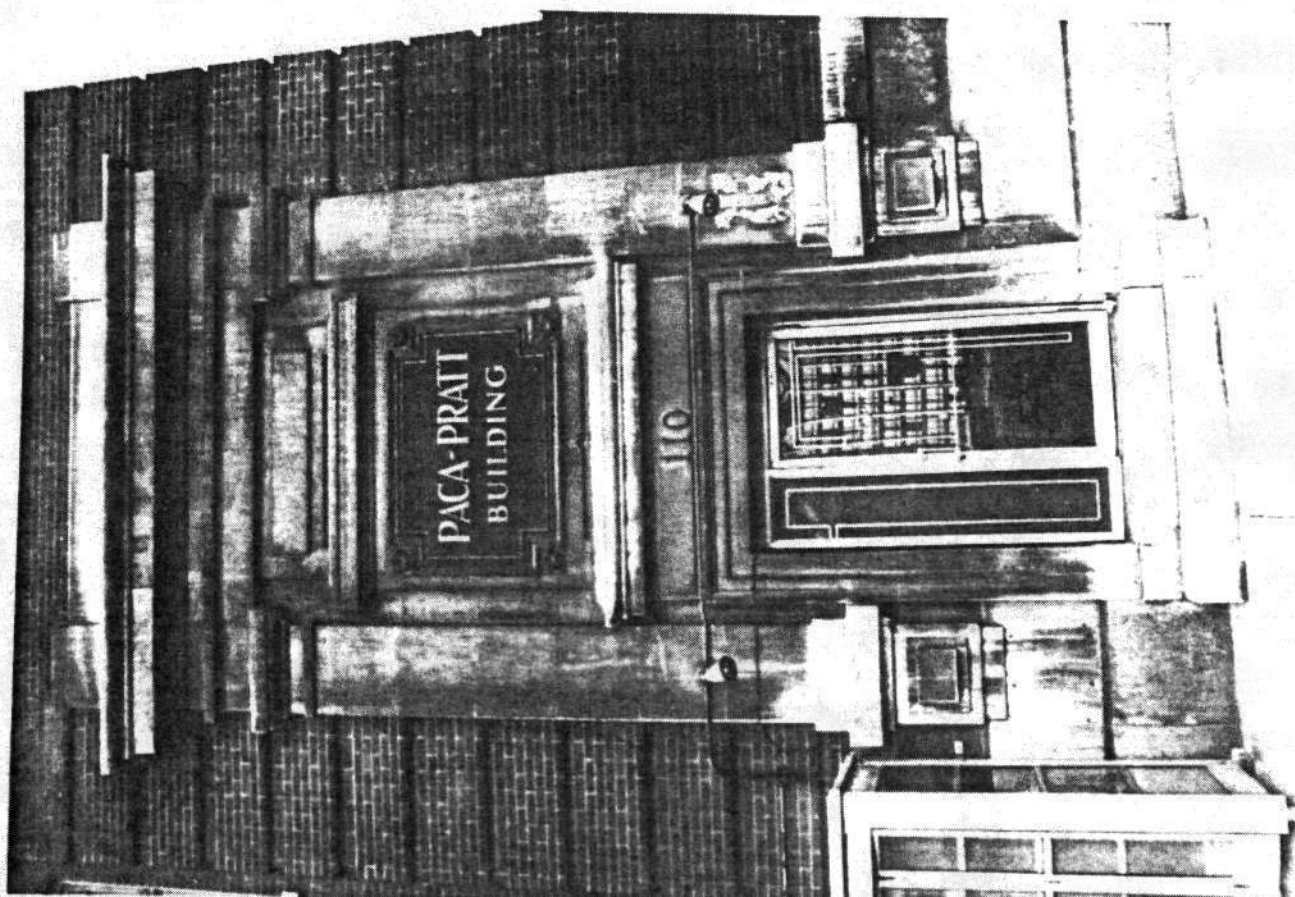
February 23, 1982  
Dennis P. Dolan  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

6. View looking N. across W. Pratt Street  
showing South facade.

6 of 33



B-2330





B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 S. Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

February 23, 1982  
Dennis P. Dolan  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

7. View looking W. across S. Paca Street -  
showing detail of main entrance doorway.

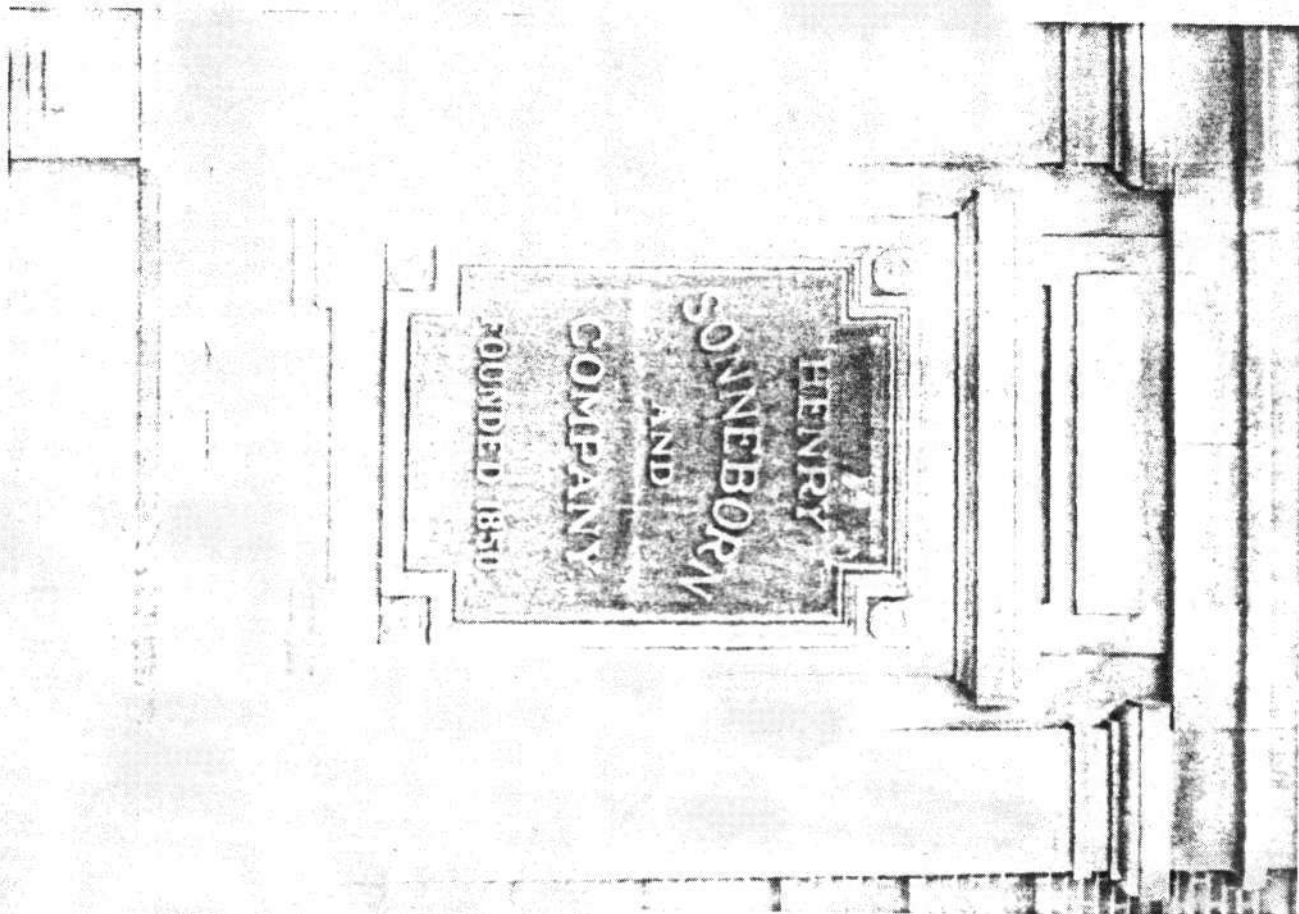
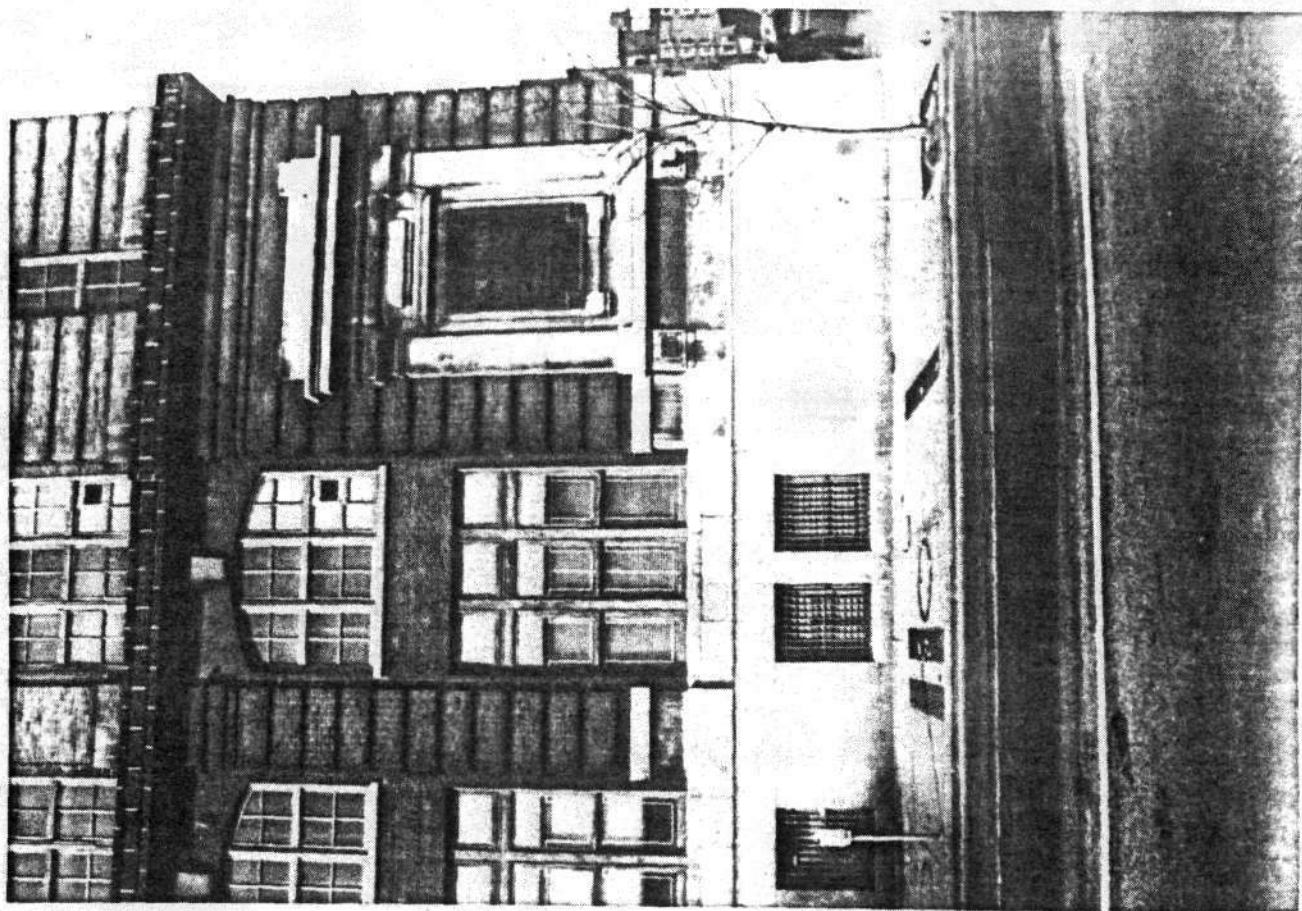
7 of 33

B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

8. View looking W. across S. I  
showing detail of side doorway  
8 of 33

B-2230



B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING February 23, 1982  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building Dennis P. Dolan  
110 Paca Street Negatives with  
Baltimore, Maryland Dennis P. Dolan

9. View looking N. across W. Pratt Street -  
showing detail of corner name plaque.

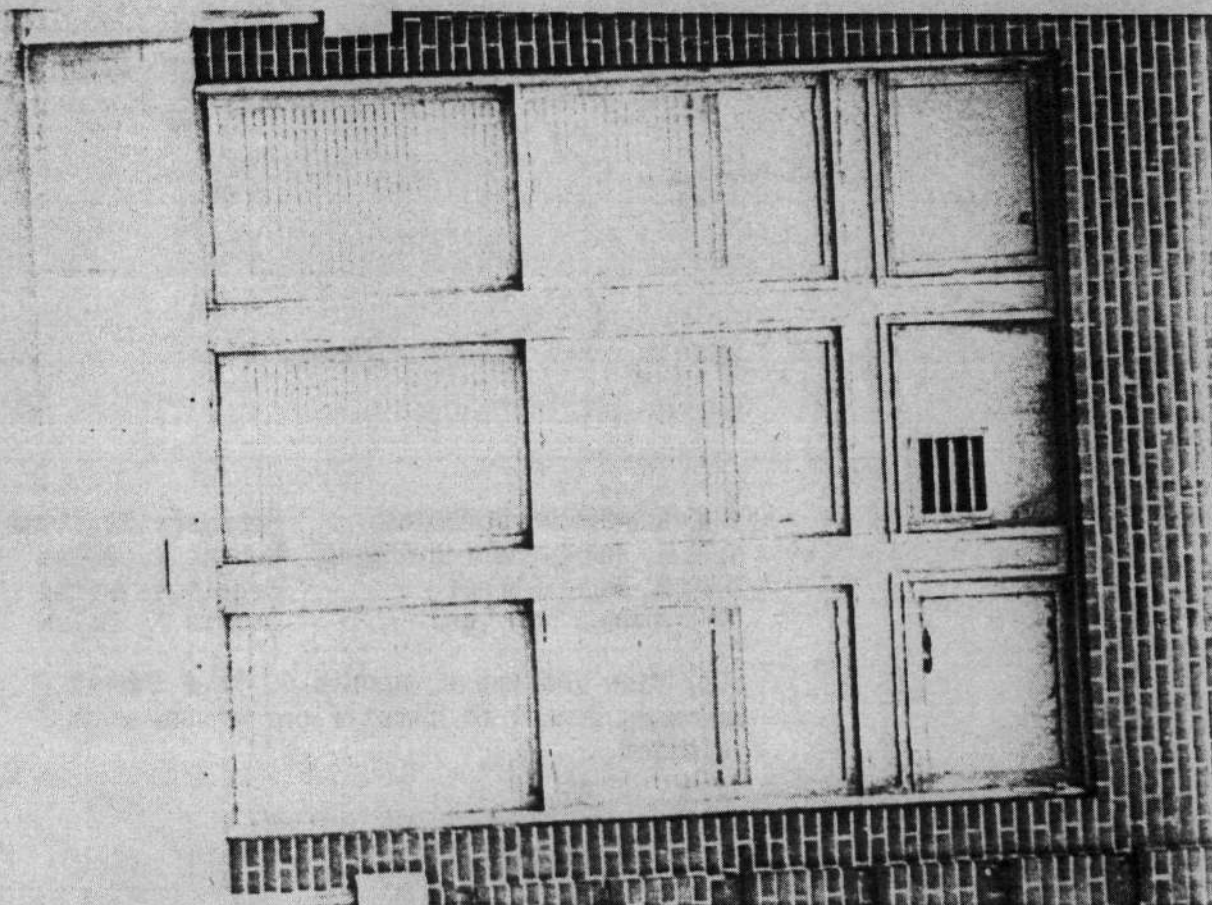
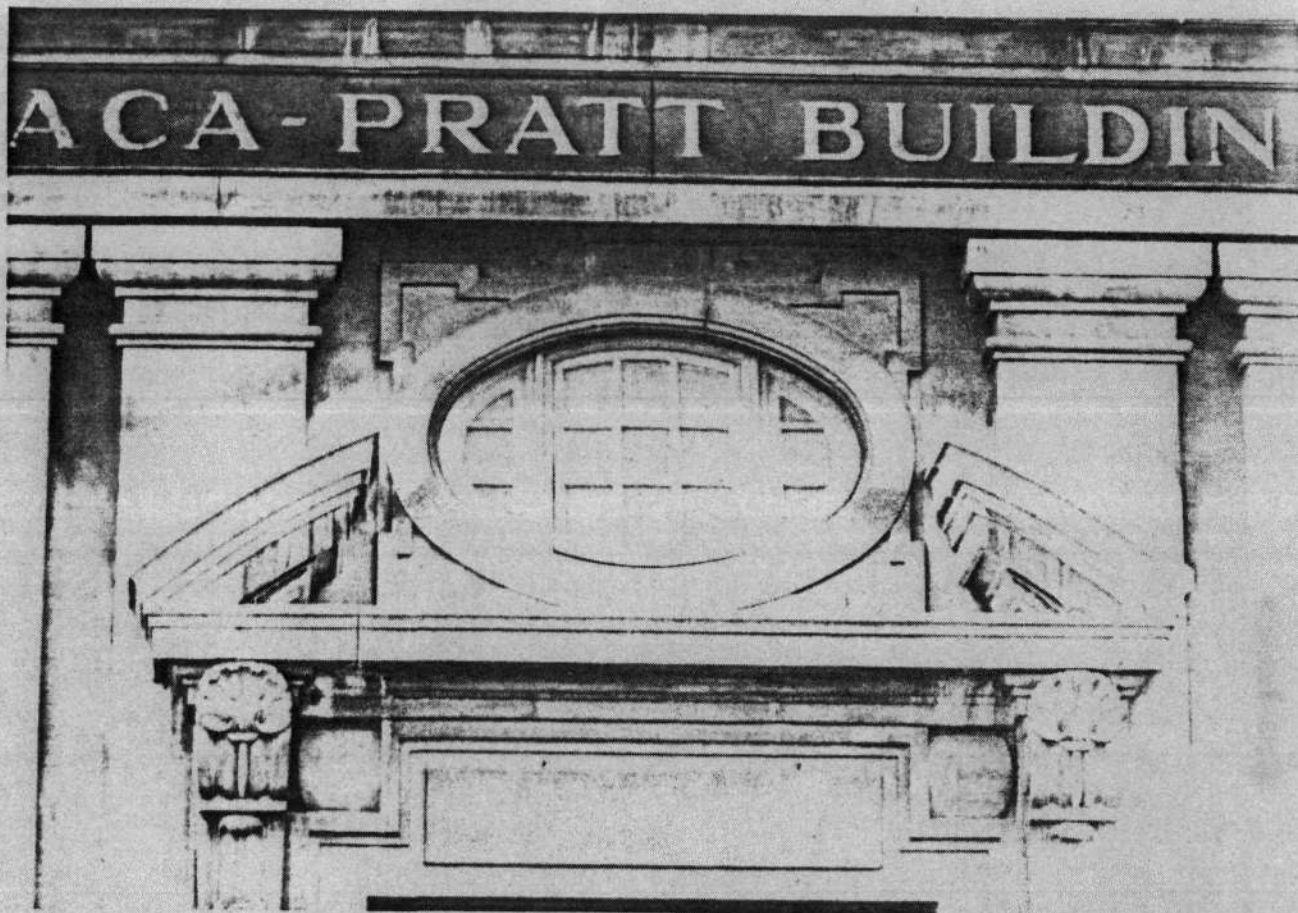
9 of 33

10 of 33

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 S. Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Dennis P. Dolan  
February 23, 1982  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan  
10. View looking W. across S. Paca Street -  
showing detail of the original corner name  
plate.

B-2330







B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 S. Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

February 23, 1982  
Dennis P. Dolan  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

11. View looking W. across S. Paca Street -  
showing detail of split pediment and oval  
window over main entrance door.

11 of 33

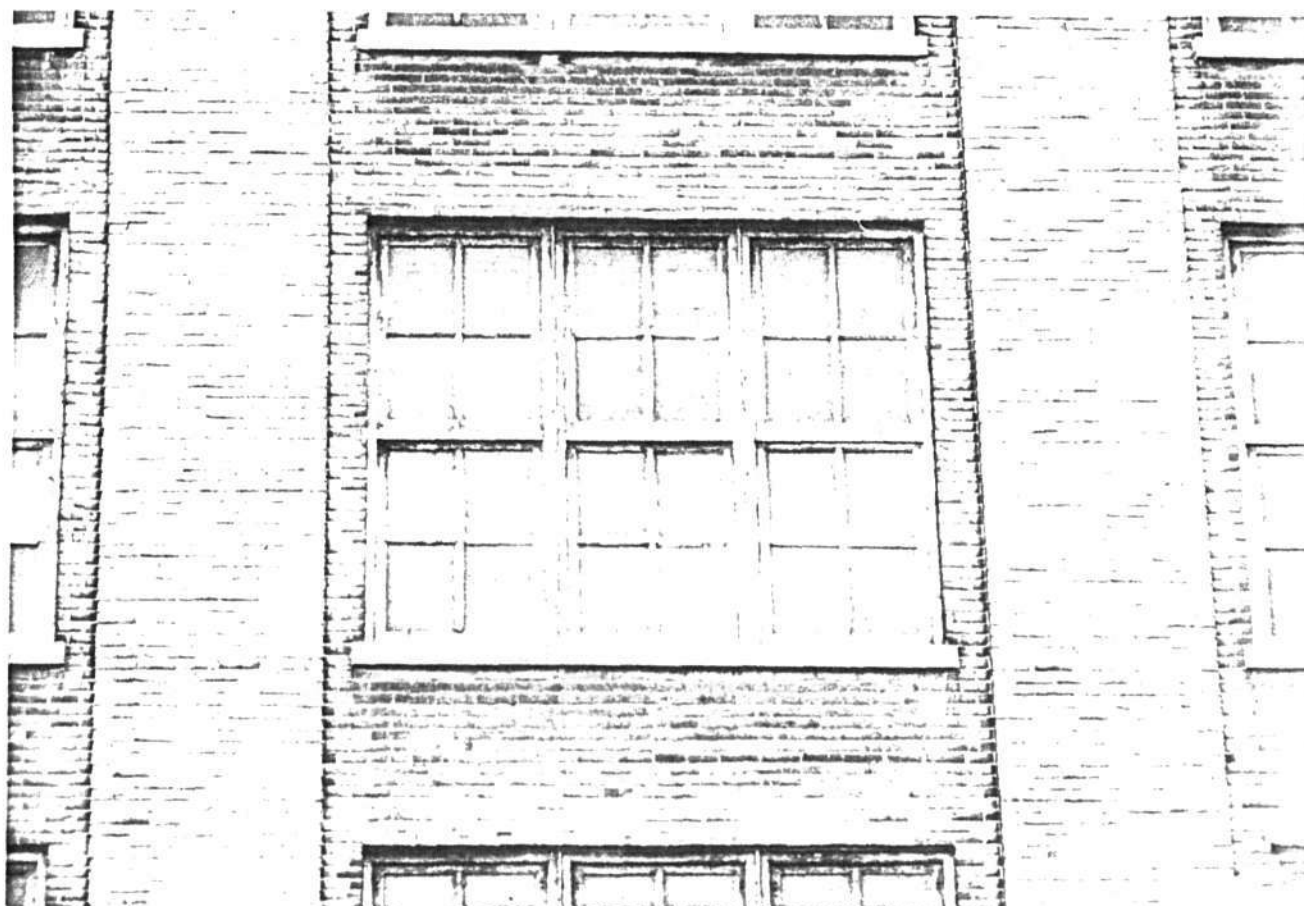
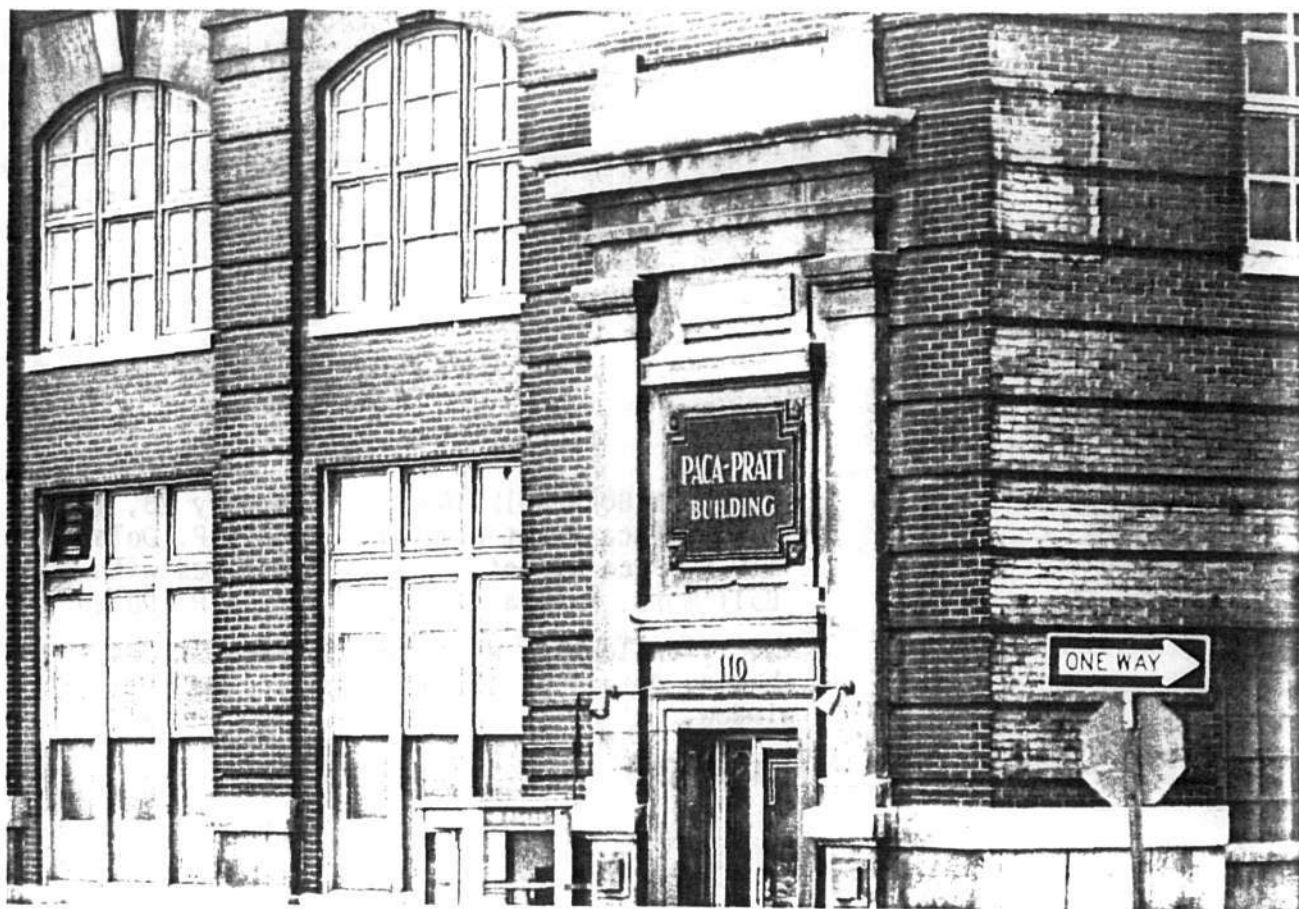
B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 S. Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

February 23, 1982  
Dennis P. Dolan  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

12. View looking W. across S. Paca Street -  
showing detail of first floor window with  
transom.

12 of 33



B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

13. View looking W. across S. Paca Street -  
showing detail of second floor arched  
window.

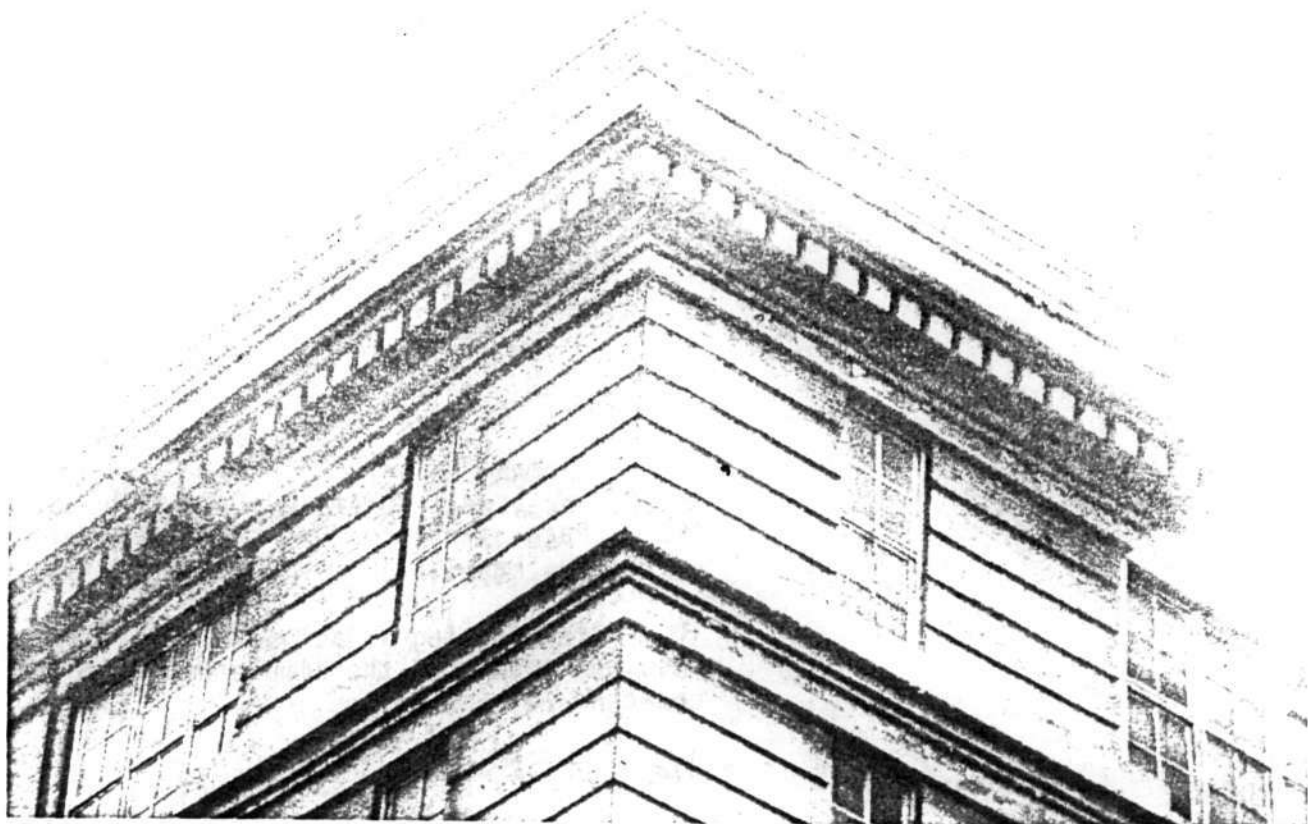
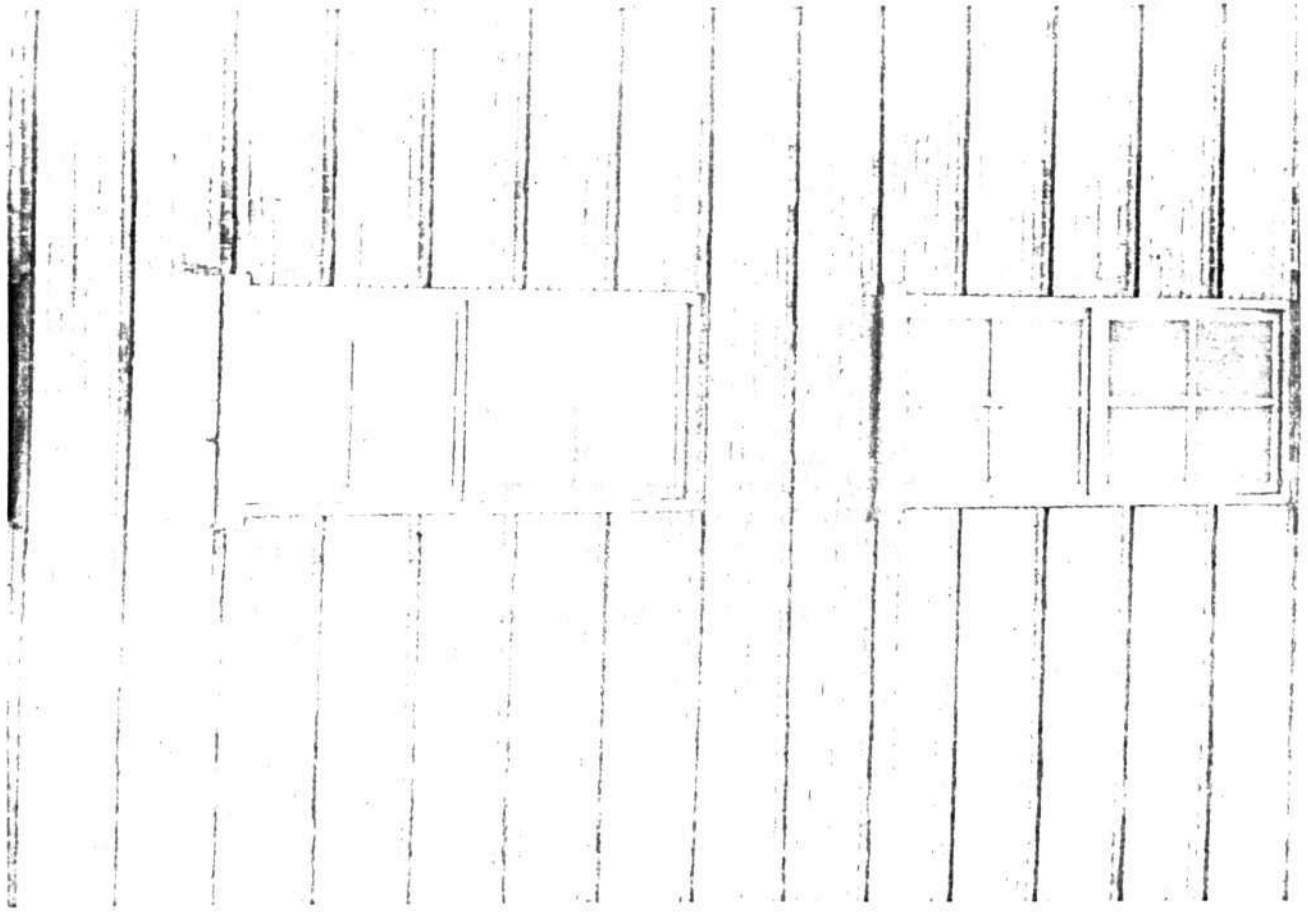
13 of 33

B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

14. View looking N. across W. Pratt Street-  
showing detail of typical windows on 3rd  
through 9th floors.

14 of 33





B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

15. View looking N. across W. Pratt Street -  
showing detail of typical windows on the  
N.E. and S.E. corners.

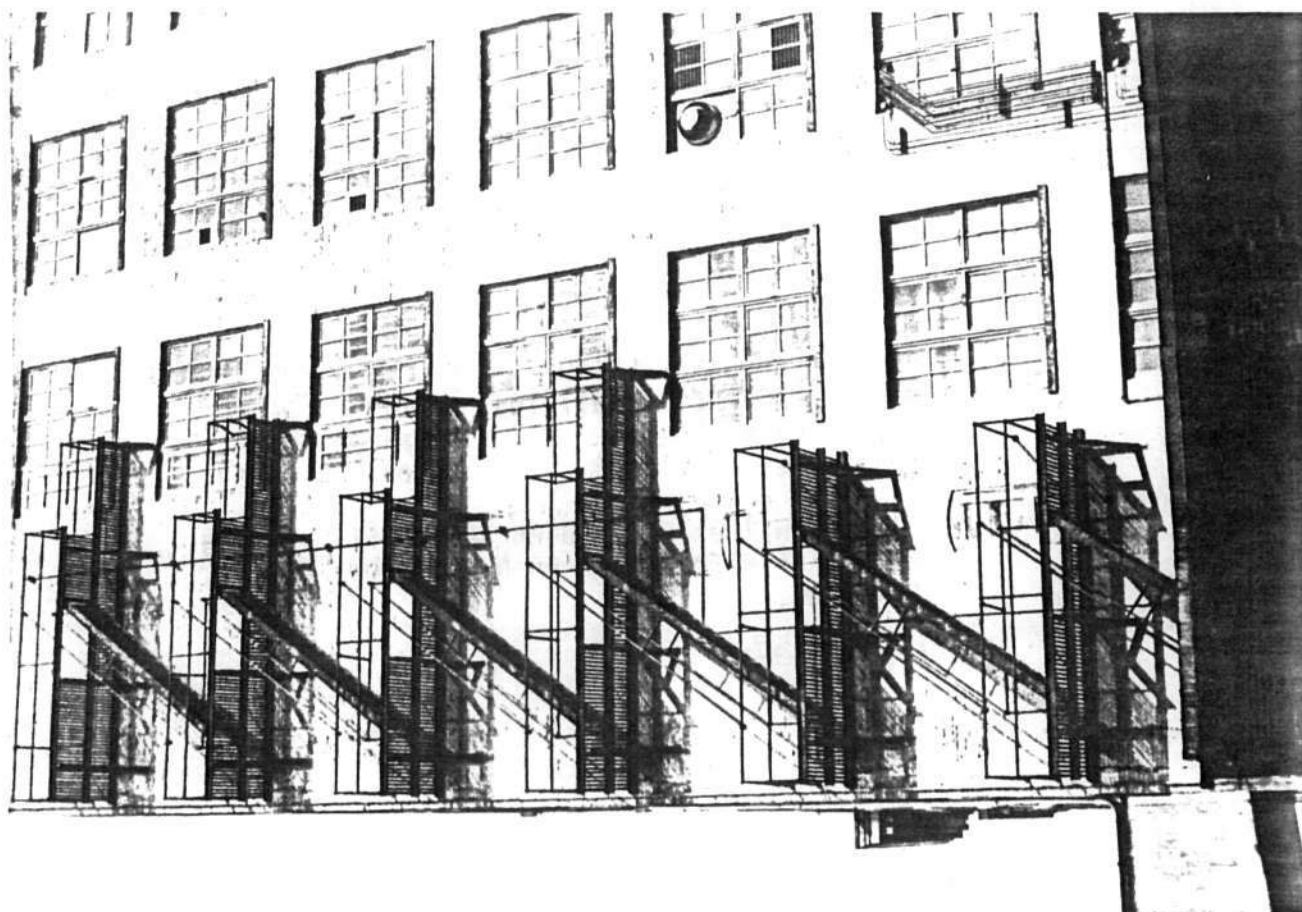
15 of 33

B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

16. View looking W. across S. Paca Street -  
showing detail of the simple roof cornice  
enriched with dentils.

16 of 33



B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

17. View looking E. down Lemmon St. showing detail of fire escape on N.W. corner of building.

17 of 33

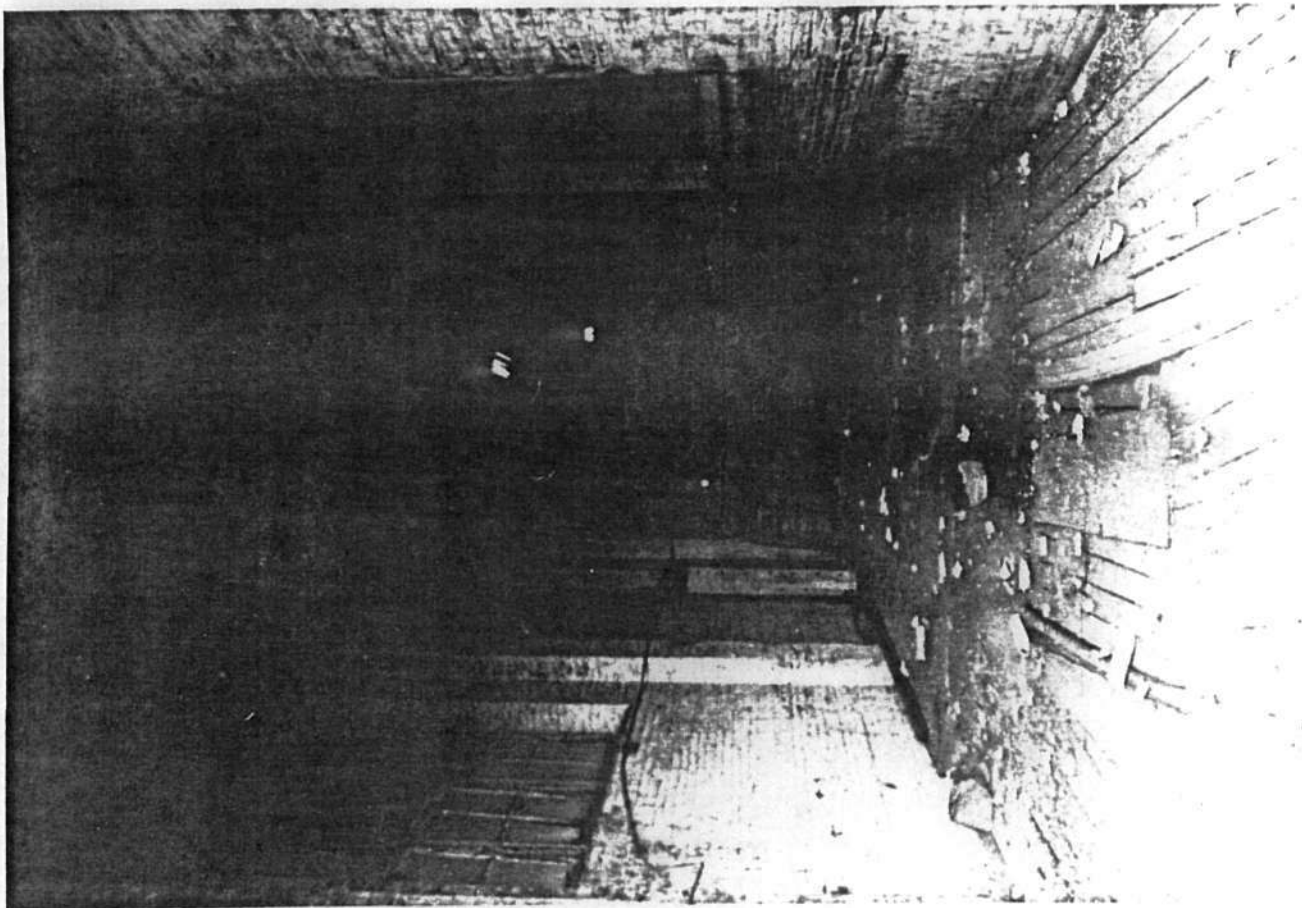
B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

18. View looking N. across W. Pratt St. showing detail of railway and loading dock entrance on South West corner of building.

18 of 33

B-2330





B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

19. View looking N. across W. Pratt St.  
showing detail of railway and loading dock  
entrance on South West corner of building.

19 of 33

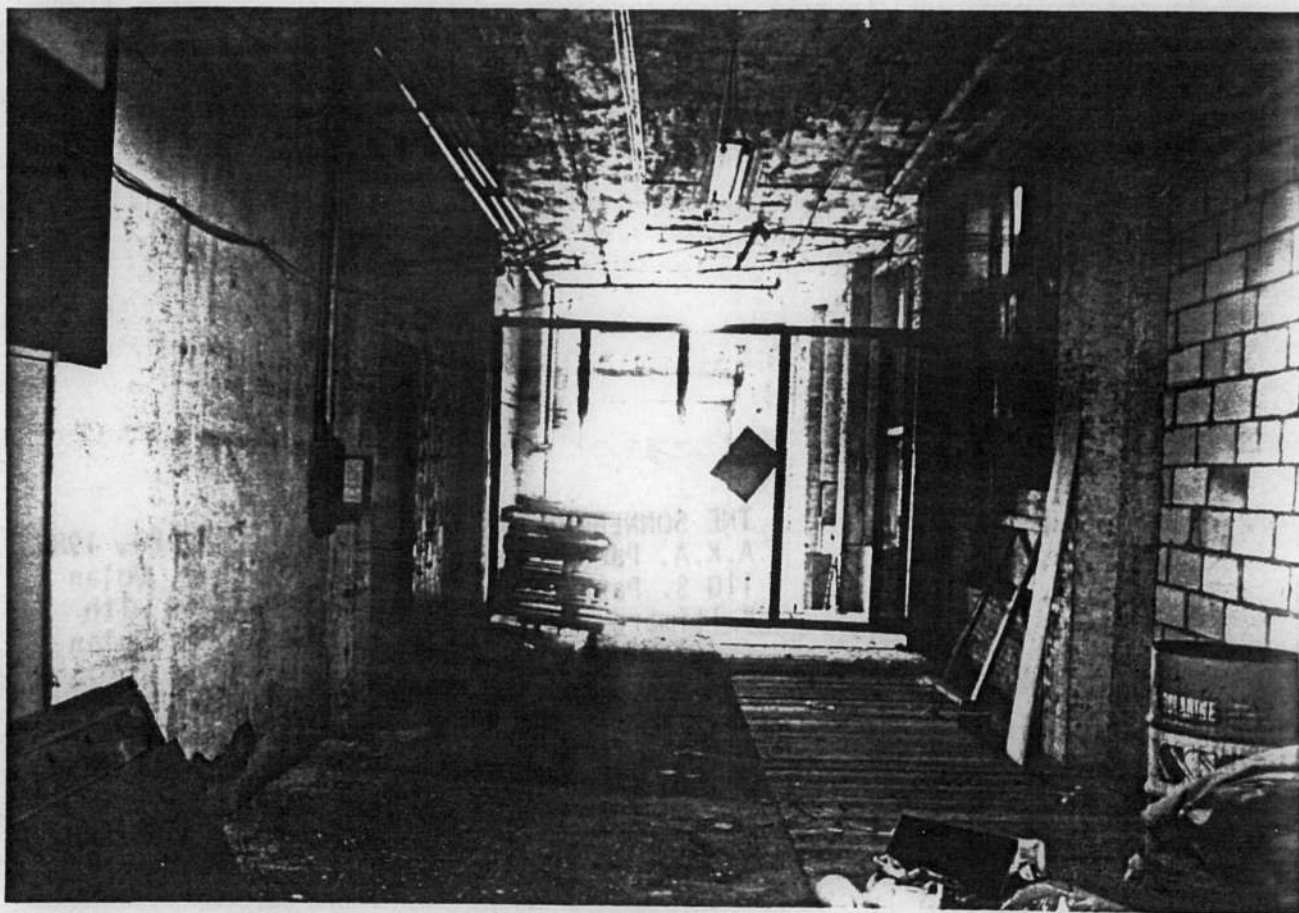
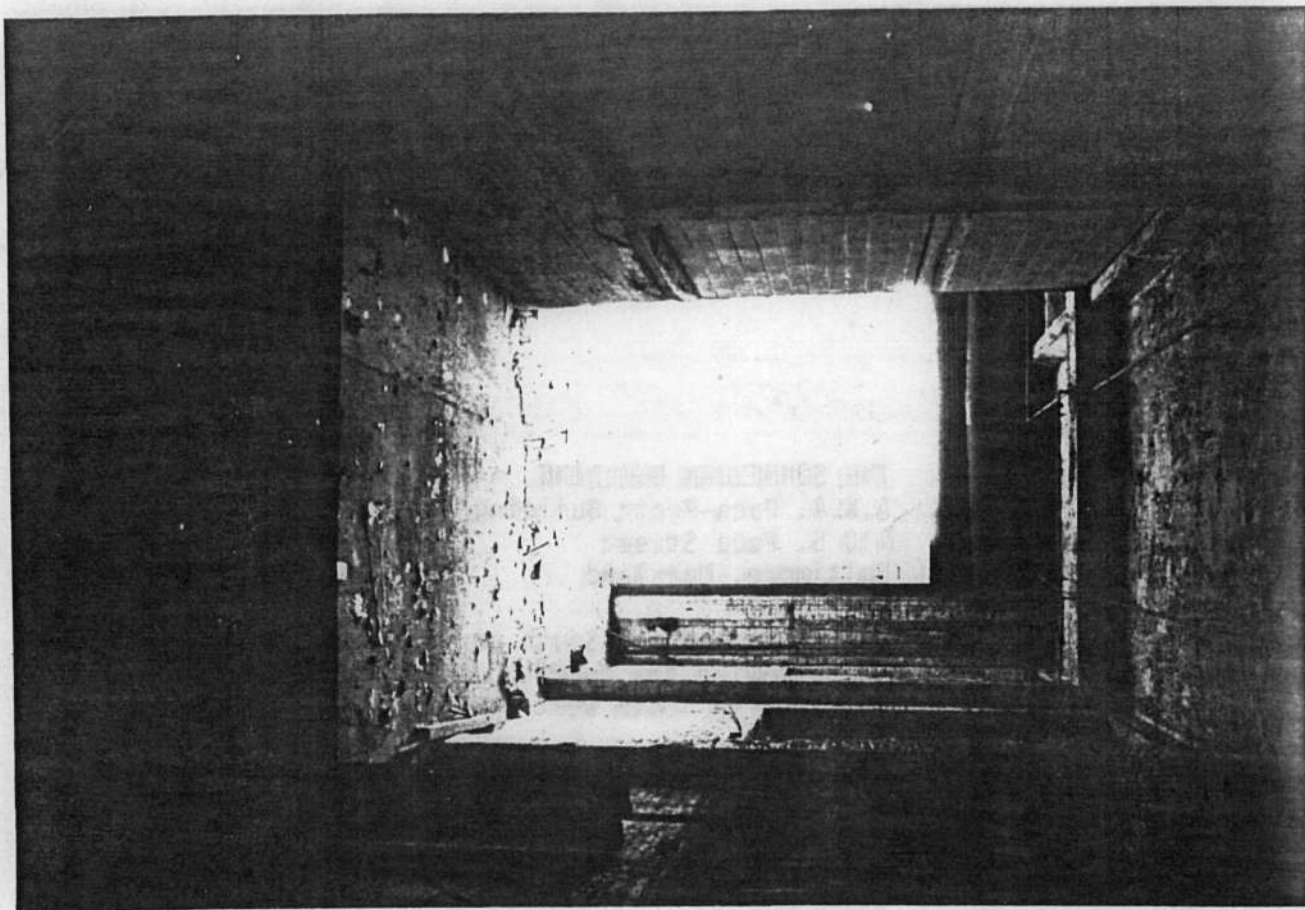
B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

20. View looking North into the railway  
entrance and loading dock that runs the  
length of the West wall of the building.

20 of 33

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B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING      February 23, 1982  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building      Dennis P. Dolan  
110 S. Paca Street      Negatives with  
Baltimore, Maryland      Dennis P. Dolan

21. View looking South across West Pratt  
St. showing the loading dock and railway  
entrance in South West corner of building.

21 of 33

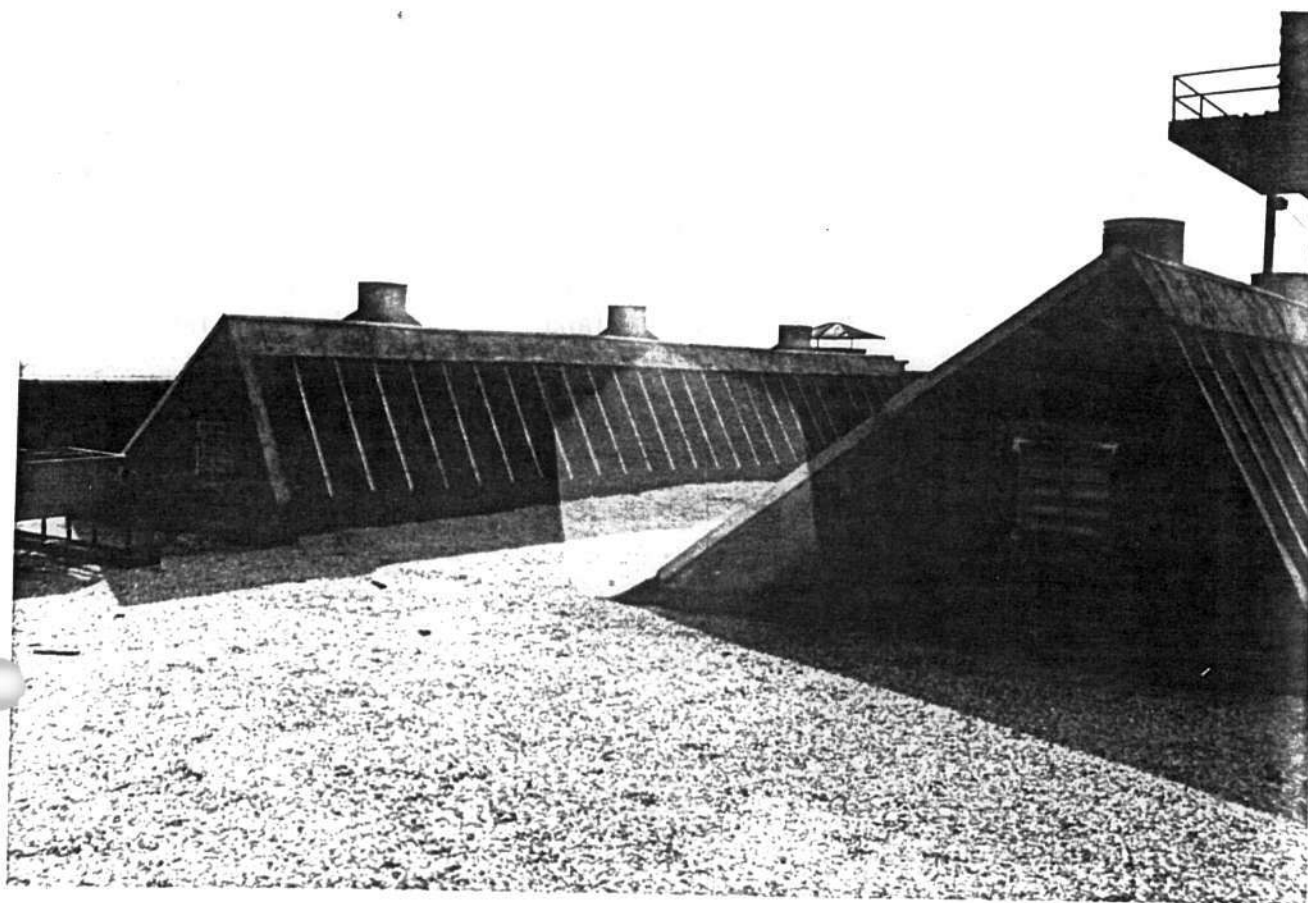
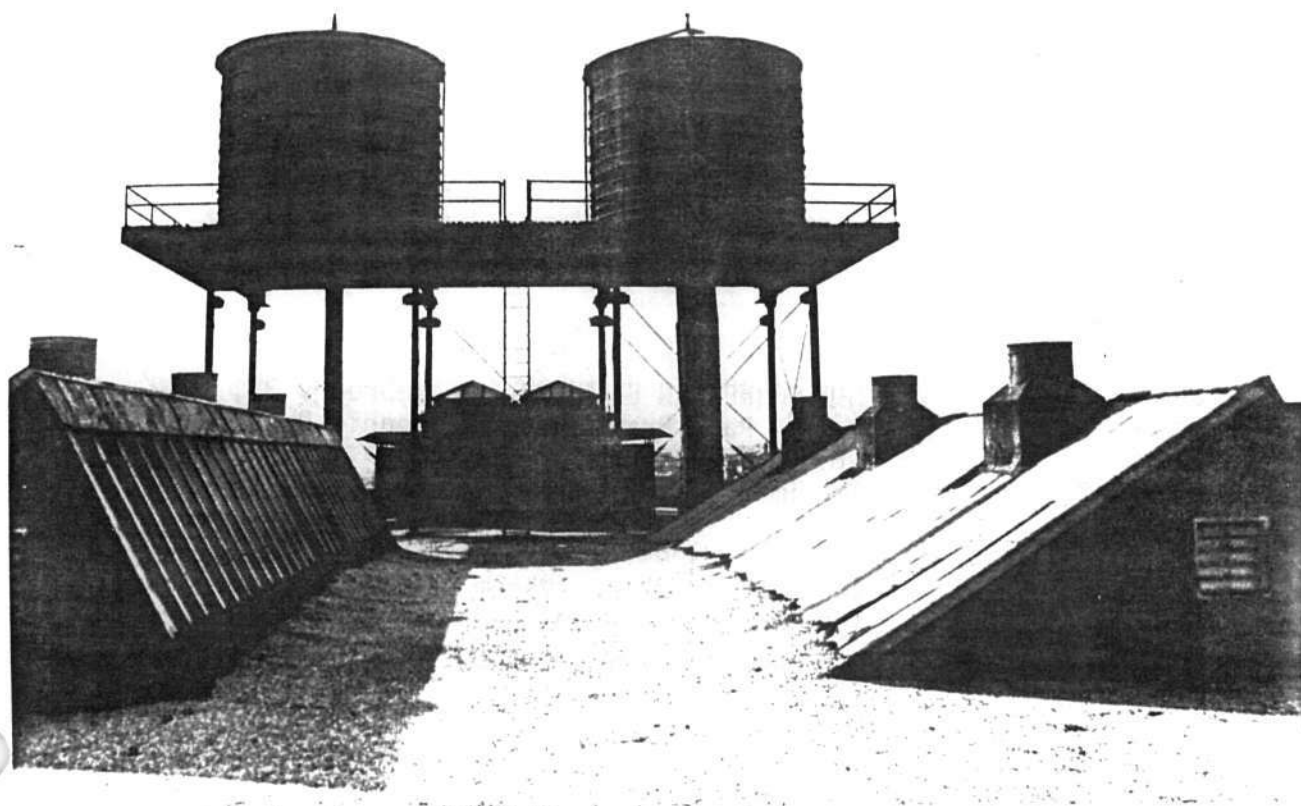
B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING      February 23, 1982  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building      Dennis P. Dolan  
110 S. Paca Street      Negatives with  
Baltimore, Maryland      Dennis P. Dolan

22. View looking South across West Pratt  
St. showing the loading dock and railway  
entrance from approximately the center  
of the West side of the building.

22 of 33





B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

23. View looking West across roof of building showing sprinkler system water tanks and roof top sky lights front back and side detail.

23 of 33

B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

24. View looking South West across roof of building showing side vent and glass face of roof top sky lights.

24 of 33



B-230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING February 23, 1982  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building Dennis P. Dolan  
110 S. Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

25. View looking West into Main Lobby showing Marble walls, Terrazzo floors and suspended ceiling.

25 of 33

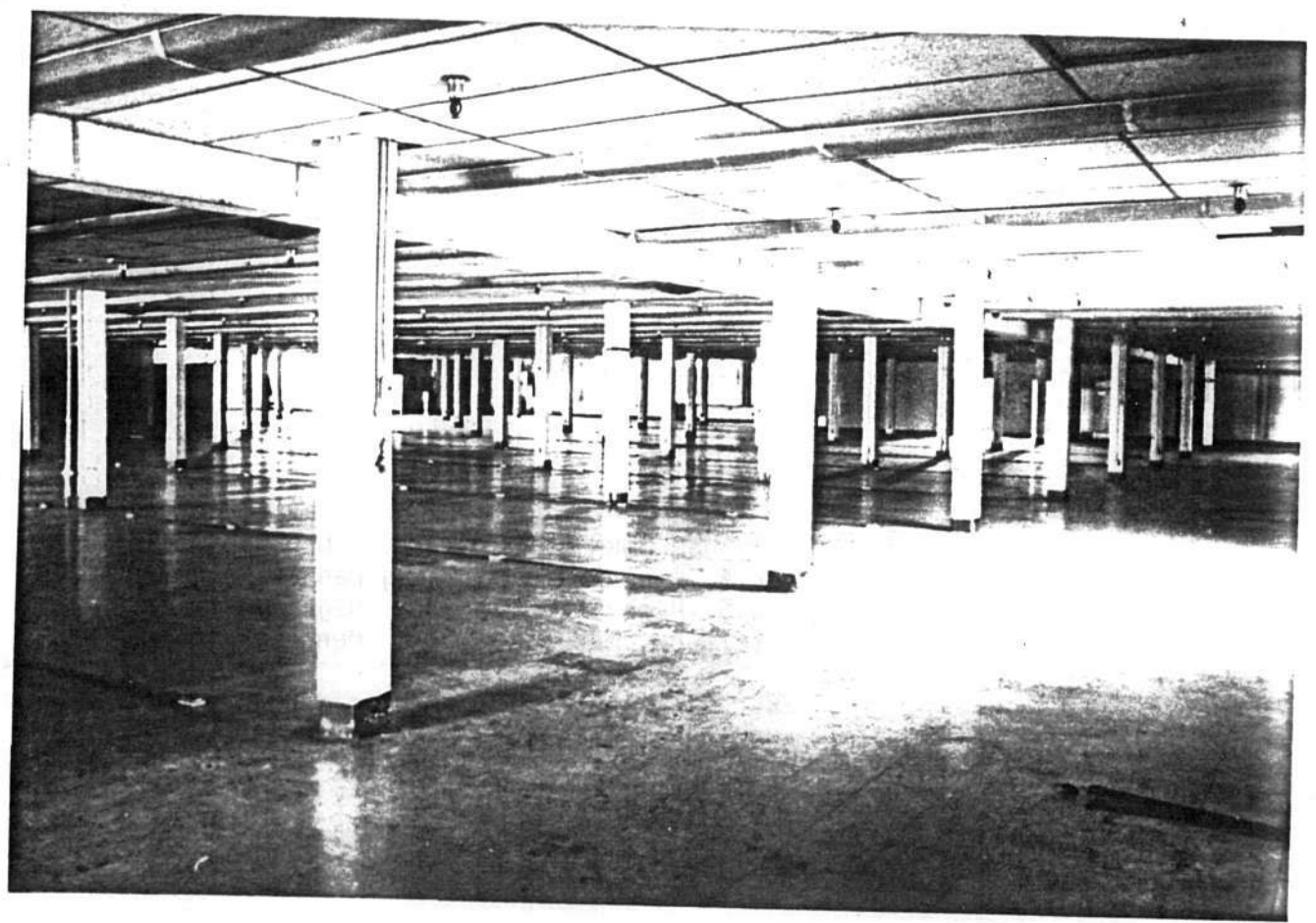
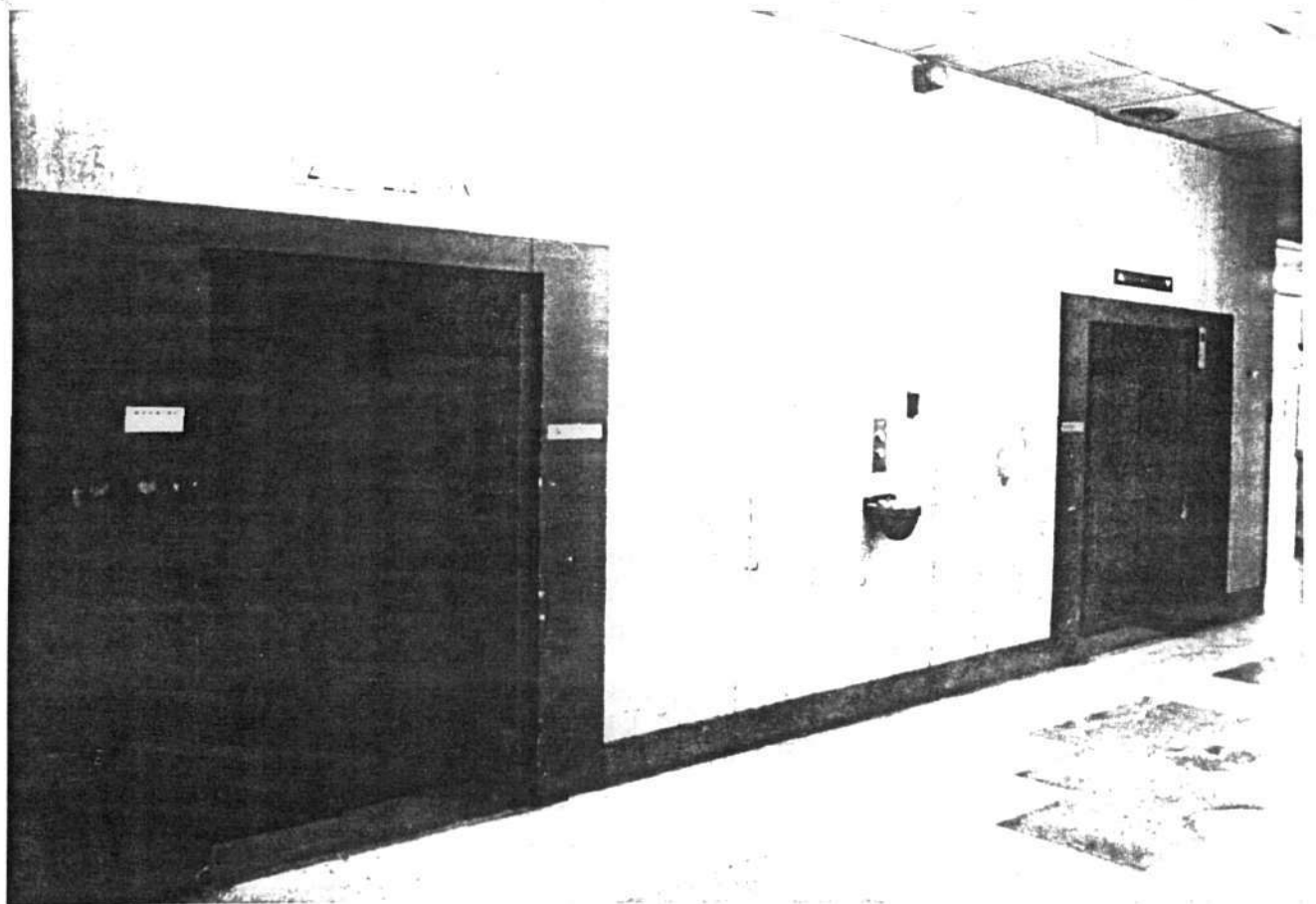
B-230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING February 23, 1982  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building Dennis P. Dolan  
110 S. Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

26. View looking East from elevator lobby toward main entrance of building showing marble walls, terrazzo floors and suspended ceiling of main lobby.

26 of 33





B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING      February 23, 1982  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building      Dennis P. Dolan  
110 S. Paca Street      Negatives with  
Baltimore, Maryland      Dennis P. Dolan

27. View looking North across elevator lobby  
showing two passenger elevators in main  
elevator tower.

27 of 33

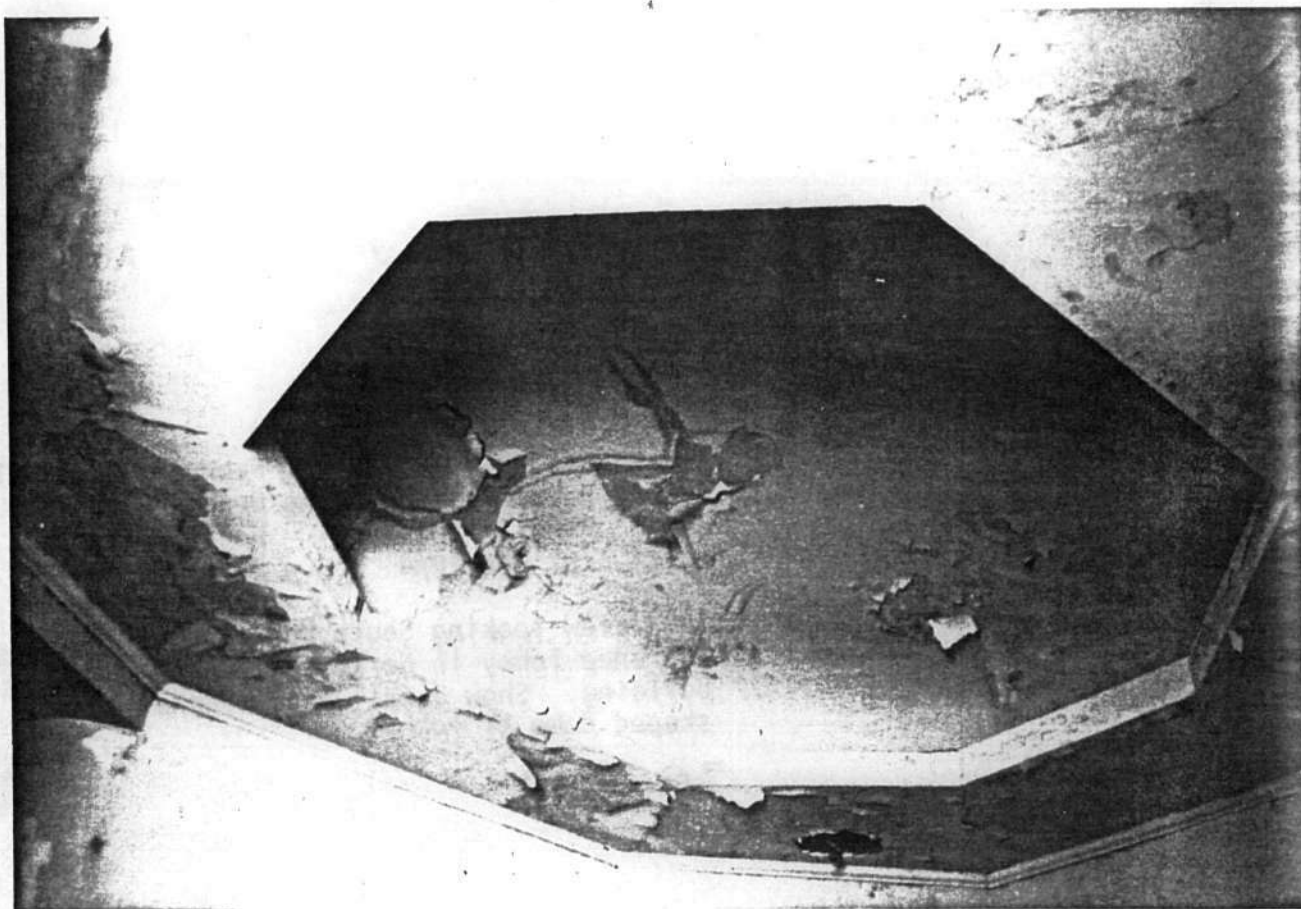
B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING      February 23, 1982  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building      Dennis P. Dolan  
110 S. Paca Street      Negatives with  
Baltimore, Maryland      Dennis P. Dolan

28. View looking North West across 9th floor  
showing typical layout of floors 2 through 9.

28 of 33

B-2330



B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING      February 23, 1982  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building      Dennis P. Dolan  
110 S. Paca Street      Negatives with  
Baltimore, Maryland      Dennis P. Dolan

29. View looking North East across 9th  
floor showing typical layout of floors  
2 through 9.

29 of 33

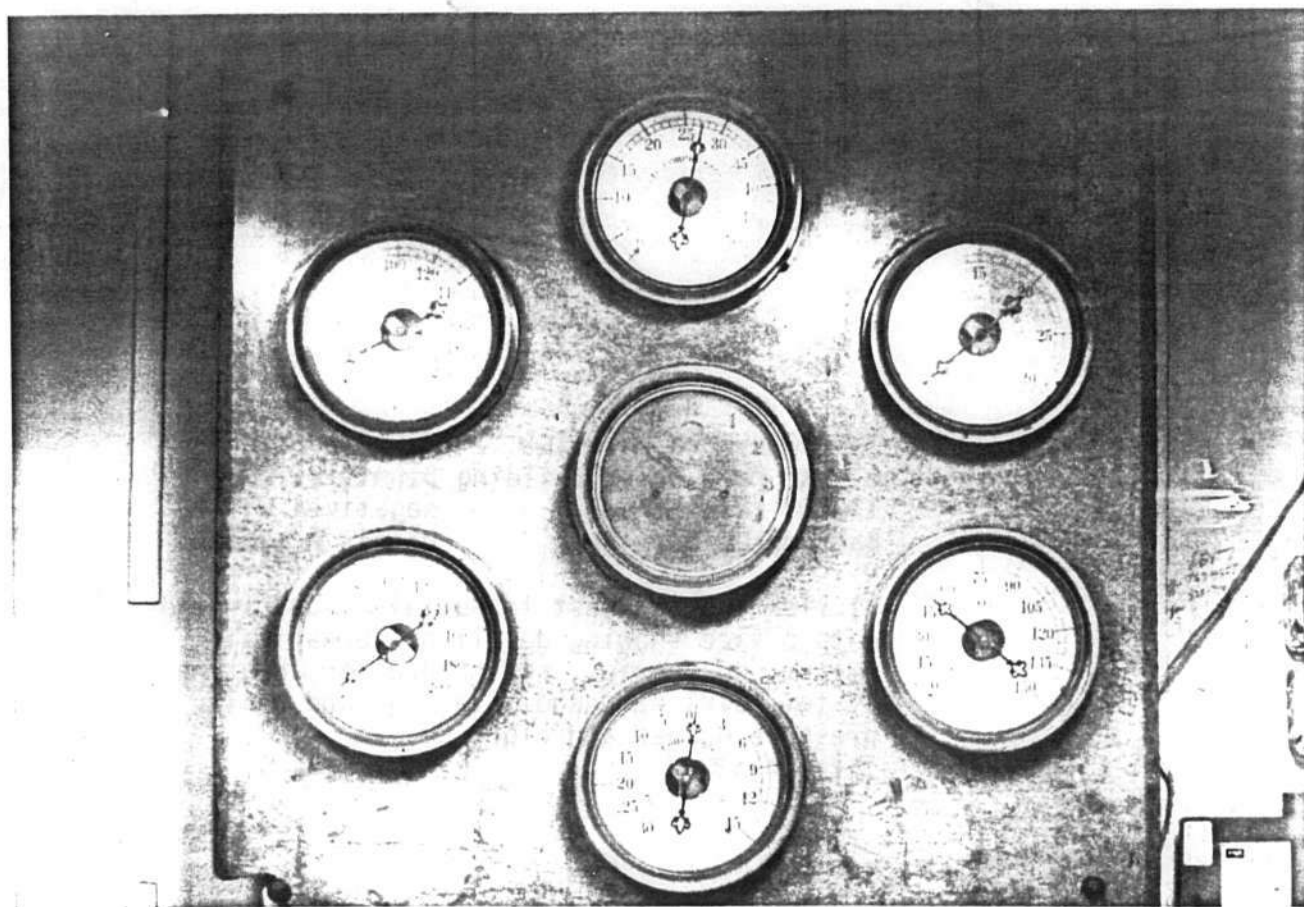
B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING      February 23, 1982  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building      Dennis P. Dolan  
110 S. Paca Street      Negatives with  
Baltimore, Maryland      Dennis P. Dolan

30. View looking South West at ceiling of  
entrance lobby in North East corner of  
building. Show detail of octagonally  
shaped dome of lobby.

30 of 33





B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

31. View looking West in building superintendent's office showing detail of mechanical system, gauges i.e., air compressor, heating system, air, compound, elevator and boiler pressure gauges and clock.

31 of 33

B-2230

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING	February 23, 1982
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building	Dennis P. Dolan
110 S. Paca Street	Negatives with
Baltimore, Maryland	Dennis P. Dolan

View looking S.E. from roof toward Inner Harbor - showing Camden Station on right, U.S.F. & G. tower on left, Convention Center, Hyatt Hotel and McCormicks.

32 of 33



B-2330

THE SONNEBORN BUILDING  
A.K.A. Paca-Pratt Building  
110 S. Paca Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

February 23, 1982  
Dennis P. Dolan  
Negatives with  
Dennis P. Dolan

View looking N.E. from roof-showing Bromo  
Seltzer Tower in center, Charles Center and  
Maryland National Bank Building on Right and  
the 1906 addition to Strouse Brothers Building  
on Left. 33 of 33

Statement of Significance

Henry Sonneborn & Co.'s building at 110 S. Paca Street--better known today as the Paca-Pratt building--is one of the most important structures in the loft district, housing the largest clothing factory in the world when it was built in 1905-06. One of Baltimore's first concrete and steel cage buildings, it was designed by Otto Simpson and T. W. Pietsch, who also designed the old Maryland Casualty Company building (now the Rotunda), Eastern High School and the Tower Building.



## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-2330

MAGI #0423305714

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Henry Sonneborn &amp; Co.

AND/OR COMMON

Paca-Pratt Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

110 Paca Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

110 Paca Corporation

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office

Liber #: JFC 1206

Folio #: 371

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse, Fayette &amp; Calvert Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

8-2330

**CONDITION**

—EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED  
—RUINS  
—UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
—ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
—MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

---

This nine story building surfaced in buff brick has ten bays on Pratt Street and eleven bays on Paca Street. The two corner bays on Paca Street are emphasized as wide horizontally rusticated pilasters. The basement and trim are of stone. The first two floors are topped by a cornice and have more elaborate detailing than the upper floors. The three central bays on Paca Street are ornamented by six stone pilasters and over the entrance is a split pediment surmounted by an oval window. As on the upper floors, the windows are arranged in groups of three, but those on the first floor have transoms and those on the second floor are set into segmental arches. The corner bays have no windows, instead each features a large bronze name plaque with an elaborate pilastered enframement with consoles and cornice. On these two floors the pilasters between the bays are horizontally rusticated.

The third through eighth floors are treated similarly. The four-over-four windows are separated by flat pilasters. On the corner bays there is a single four-over-four window on each floor. A simple cornice separates the eighth and ninth floors and the ninth floor windows rest directly on it. Above them is the roof cornice, again simple, but enriched with dentils.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1905-1935 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Designers: Otto Simpson & T.W.Pietsch  
 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Henry Sonneborn & Co.'s building at 110 S. Paca Street-- better known today as the Paca-Pratt building--is one of the most important structures in the loft district, housing the largest clothing factory in the world when it was built in 1905-06. One of Baltimore's first concrete and steel cage buildings, it was designed by Otto Simpson and T. W. Pietsch, who also designed the old Maryland Casualty Company building (now the Rotunda), Eastern High School and the Tower Building.

### Historical Significance

Henry Sonneborn & Co. built the 10-story "Paca-Pratt" building in 1905-6 when quarters at 10-14 S. Eutaw became inadequate. Sonneborn was one of the first clothing manufacturers to change the production system from one which relied on sending out piece work to thousands of small sweatshops, to a centralized industry employing several thousand people under one roof. Henry Sonneborn was an immigrant, arriving in the United States in 1849, aged 23. He began as a peddler and then sold men's clothes in West Virginia. Returning to Baltimore in 1853 he operated a chain of stores and began manufacturing the clothes he sold. In 1855 he sold the branch stores, and with his brothers began exclusively to manufacture men's clothing. By 1890 he employed between 1500 and 2000 hands and made c. 1200 suits per day. By 1910, his was reputed to be the largest clothing plant in the world, making 3000 suits a day with distribution in every state. The company opened offices in New York and Chicago to aid the distribution of their products, and in 1911 began a national advertising campaign for their "Styleplus" brand. Sonneborn's heavily whiskered, honest-looking face, sewn into thousands of the suits, became well known throughout the country.

In many ways Henry Sonneborn and his company were typical of European immigrants to this country. Arriving with his brothers, they made their way to Baltimore where another relative already lived. In 1851, having earned enough money to marry, he sent for his fiancée. As his business became more successful he employed many immigrants

Cont'd.--

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Vertical Files, Baltimore Industrial Museum

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Robert Weis, Philip Kahn

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

November, 1980

STREET &amp; NUMBER

217 N. Charles Street

TELEPHONE

301-396-1931

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland 21201

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



in the factory, giving them a start in their new country. It is said that yearly turnover was over 50% in the plant as these immigrants found better situations in other businesses and cities. Even after 50 years in the United States, Henry Sonneborn kept very strong ties to his native land. He returned every four or five years; and, after the death of his first wife in 1880, he went back to Breitenbach--his birthplace--to take a new wife. He travelled with his children throughout Europe and obviously kept very strong ties with the old country.

There were consequences associated with the consolidation of work in a single factory. The immigrant labor force in sweatshops had always been heavily exploited; and once large numbers had been gathered to work in a single place it was easier for them to organize. By 1904, when they were still in the Eutaw Street building, Sonneborn was unionized as an open shop. Although they were one of the first companies in the industry to accept independent arbitration of labor/management disputes, they none-the-less saw riots in 1916--the culmination of several years' disturbances in several clothing factories around the city.

After a long and successful history, Henry Sonneborn & Co. closed in c. 1935.

In the mid-1930's the ground floor and part of the basement became the offices of the Joseph M. Zamoiski Co. Zamoiski was an electrical contractor and wired the B & O tunnel in Baltimore. His son, Calman J., returning from World War I, was interested in radio and, against his father's wishes, bought RCA radio tubes from General Sarnoff personally. He operated the first commercial radio station in Baltimore from his home; and gradually the distribution of radios, major household appliances and floor coverings took over from electrical supplies. They were distributors for Philco radios, refrigerators, et cetera and then early in the 1950's changed to the emerging Zenith line. They occupied the building and several nearby warehouses until they built new facilities in the western suburbs, c. 1960.

The Social Security Administration used the top two floors for many years, remaining even after new headquarters were built in Woodlawn, in Baltimore County.

1. SITE I.D. NO

2 3 3 0  
B 1 4 1 6

## NAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?  
(SPECIFY THREAT)☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

110 Paca Corporation

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

110 Paca Corporation  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Henry Sonneborn & Co.  
Paca - Pratt Building10. STATE  
COUNTY

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.  
DIST.

3

STATE  
COUNTY

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.  
DIST.

3

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET &amp; NO.)

110 South Paca

12. EXISTING  
SURVEYS☐ NR☐ NHL☐ HABS☐ HAER-I☐ HAER☐ NPS☐ CL6☐ CONF☐ STATE☐ COUNTY☒ LOCAL☐ OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)

☒ INTERIOR INTACT☐ EXTERIOR INTACT☐ ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

☒ 1:24☐ 1:62.5

QUAD NAME Baltimore East

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

☐ 1:24☐ 1:62.5

QUAD NAME

15. CONDITION

70 ☐ EXCELLENT71 ☒ GOOD72 ☐ FAIR73 ☐ DETERIORATED74 ☐ RUINS75 ☐ UNEXPOSED76 ☐ ALTERED77 ☐ DESTROYED85 ☐ DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Robert Weis, Philip Kahn

AFFILIATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

November 1980

17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

Henry Sonneborn & Co.'s building at 110 S. Paca Street--better known today as the Paca-Pratt building--is one of the most important structures in the loft district, housing the largest clothing factory in the world when it was built in 1905-06. One of Baltimore's first concrete and steel cage buildings, it was designed by Otto Simpson and T. W. Pietsch, who also designed the old Maryland Casualty Company building (now the Rotunda), Eastern High School and the Tower Building.

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

Industrial/Commercial

PRESENT USE

Vacant

ADAPTIVE USE

19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Vertical files, Baltimore Industrial Museum

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000  
POP. OR MORE?☒ YES ☐ NO

21.

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

☒ YES, LIMITED☐ YES, UNLIMITED☐ NO☐ UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR

INDEXER

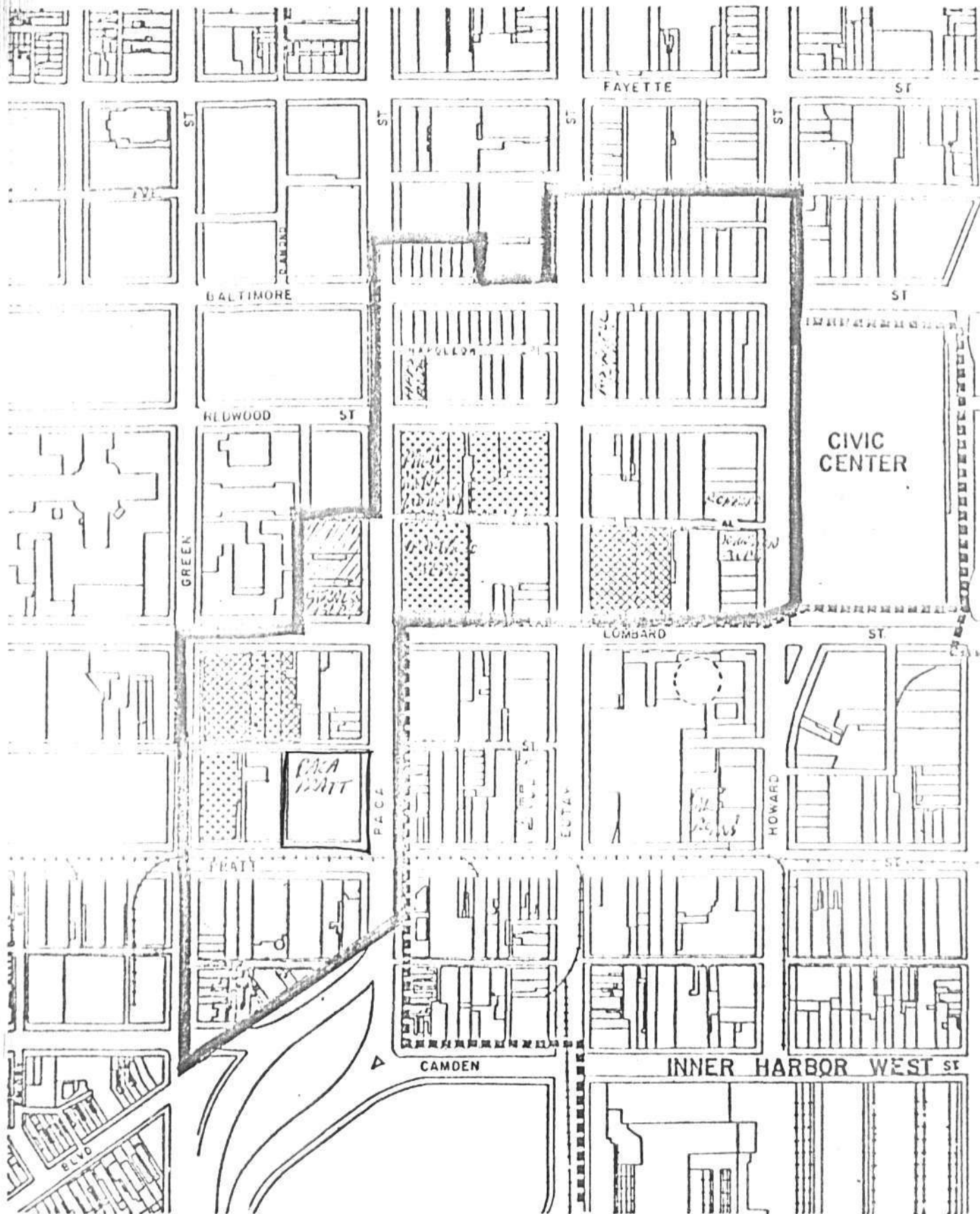
24. LO IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

☐ YES☒ NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO

# LOFT DISTRICT STUDY



HENRY SONNEBORN & CO. B-2330

NY



COMMERCIAL



INDUSTRIAL



PUBLIC



B-2330



HENRY

SONNEBORN  
+ CO.

18<sup>3</sup>60025<sup>43</sup> 49740

USGS Quad  
Baltimore East

B-2330

HENRY SONNEBORN & CO.  
USGS 7.5 Baltimore East Quad, MD  
3 43  
18 60025 49740





PACA-PRATT BUILDING  
BALTIMORE CITY, MD  
NEG. LOC. MD HISTORIC TRUST  
July 1980 Paca Street Facade

NEG #  
B-~~4116~~  
2330



PACA-PRATT BUILDING ~~MASS~~ #  
BALTIMORE CITY, MD B-~~1000~~  
NEG. LOC. MD HISTORIC TRUST 2330  
JULY 1980 Paca Street, looking  
east



PACA-PRATT  
BUILDING

SPACE AVAILABLE  
APPLY ON PREMISES  
OR VISIT OUR BROKER

NO STOPPING  
ANYTIME  
NO STOPPING  
7 - 9AM  
4-6PM  
NO PARKING  
9AM-4PM  
EAST THIRTY EIGHT

PACA- PRATT BUILDING ~~MADE~~ #  
BALTIMORE CITY, MD B-~~1016~~  
NEG. LOC. MD HISTORIC TRUST 2330  
JULY 1980 Detail, Pratt Street  
Facade



PACA-PRATT Building  
BALTIMORE City, MD

~~MAKER~~ #  
B-10116  
2330

NEG. LOC. MD HISTORIC TRUST  
July 1980 Lemmon Alley (North)  
Facade



# PACA-PRATT BUILDING

PACA-PRATT

110  
PACA-PRATT



DO NOT TOUCH OR REMOVE

PACA-PRATT BUILDING ~~1445~~  
BALTIMORE CITY, MD B-1016  
NEG. LOC. MD HISTORIC TRUST 2330  
JULY 1980 Detail, Paca St. facade



TACA-PRATT BUILDING  
BALTIMORE CITY, MD

~~MAST #~~  
B-11116  
2330

NEG. LOC. MD HISTORIC TRUST

JULY 1980 Alley view - North +  
West facades, looking  
east





PACA-PRATT BUILDING

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

NEG. LOC. MD HISTORIC TRUST

JULY 1980 Storage building  
connected to main  
building

~~MAST~~ #

B-~~11116~~

2330

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: <span style="float: right;">The Paca Pratt Building</span>				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <span style="float: right;">110 S. Paca Street</span>				
CITY OR TOWN: <span style="float: right;">Baltimore</span>				
STATE: <span style="float: right;">Maryland</span>		COUNTY:		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One)		<b>OWNERSHIP</b>		<b>STATUS</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		<b>Public Acquisition:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: <span style="float: right;">Records Office Room 601</span>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <span style="float: right;">Baltimore City Courthouse</span>				
CITY OR TOWN: <span style="float: right;">Baltimore</span>		STATE: <span style="float: right;">Maryland</span>		21202
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: <span style="float: right;">City of Baltimore Neighborhood</span>				
DATE OF SURVEY: <span style="float: right;">1976</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <span style="float: right;">COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &amp; ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION</span>				
STREET AND NUMBER: <span style="float: right;">Room 900</span>				
CITY OR TOWN: <span style="float: right;">26 South Calvert St. Baltimore, Md. 21202</span>		STATE:		

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncolored		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This nine story building surfaced in buff brick has ten bays on Pratt Street and eleven bays on Paca Street. The two corner bays on Paca Street are emphasized as wide horizontally rusticated pilasters. The basement and trim are of stone. The first two floors are topped by a cornice and have more elaborate detailing than the upper floors. The three central bays on Paca Street are ornamented by six stone pilasters and over the entrance is a split pediment surmounted by an oval window. As on the upper floors, the windows are arranged in groups of three, but those on the first floor have transoms and those on the second floor are set into segmental arches. The corner bays have no windows, instead each features a large bronze name plaque with an elaborate pilastered enframement with consoles and cornice. On these two floors the pilasters between the bays are horizontally rusticated.

The third through eighth floors are treated similarly. The four-over-four windows are separated by flat pilasters. On the corner bays there is a single four-over-four window on each floor. A simple cornice separates the eighth and ninth floors and the ninth floor windows rest directly on it. Above them is the roof cornice, again simple, but enriched with dentils.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HISTORICAL  
PRESERVATIONNOV 1963  
NOV 1963

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☒ 18th Century      ☒ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the earliest steel and concrete buildings in Baltimore and the most up-to-date facility of its kind when built. Otto Simonson, architect of the Town Theater. (311-317 W. Fayette) was the primary designer.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &  
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

DATE

1976

STREET AND NUMBER

Room 900

CITY OR TOWN:

26 South Calvert St  
Baltimore, Md. 21202

STATE

## 12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature



110 S. Praca

B-2330

Neg #

2/76

B. Prach

Block 665